SUPERMAN &
THE GREEN LANTERN CORPS
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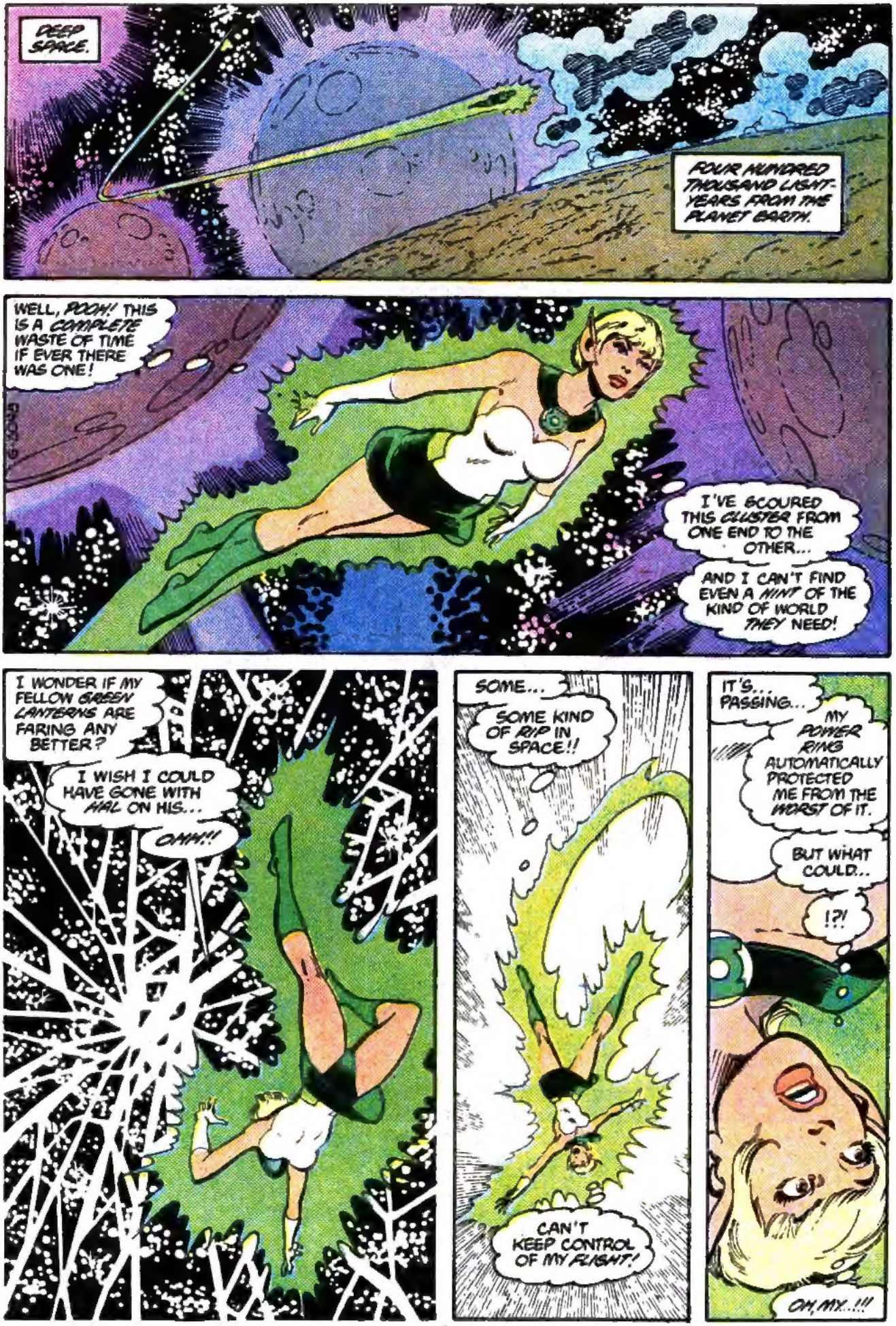
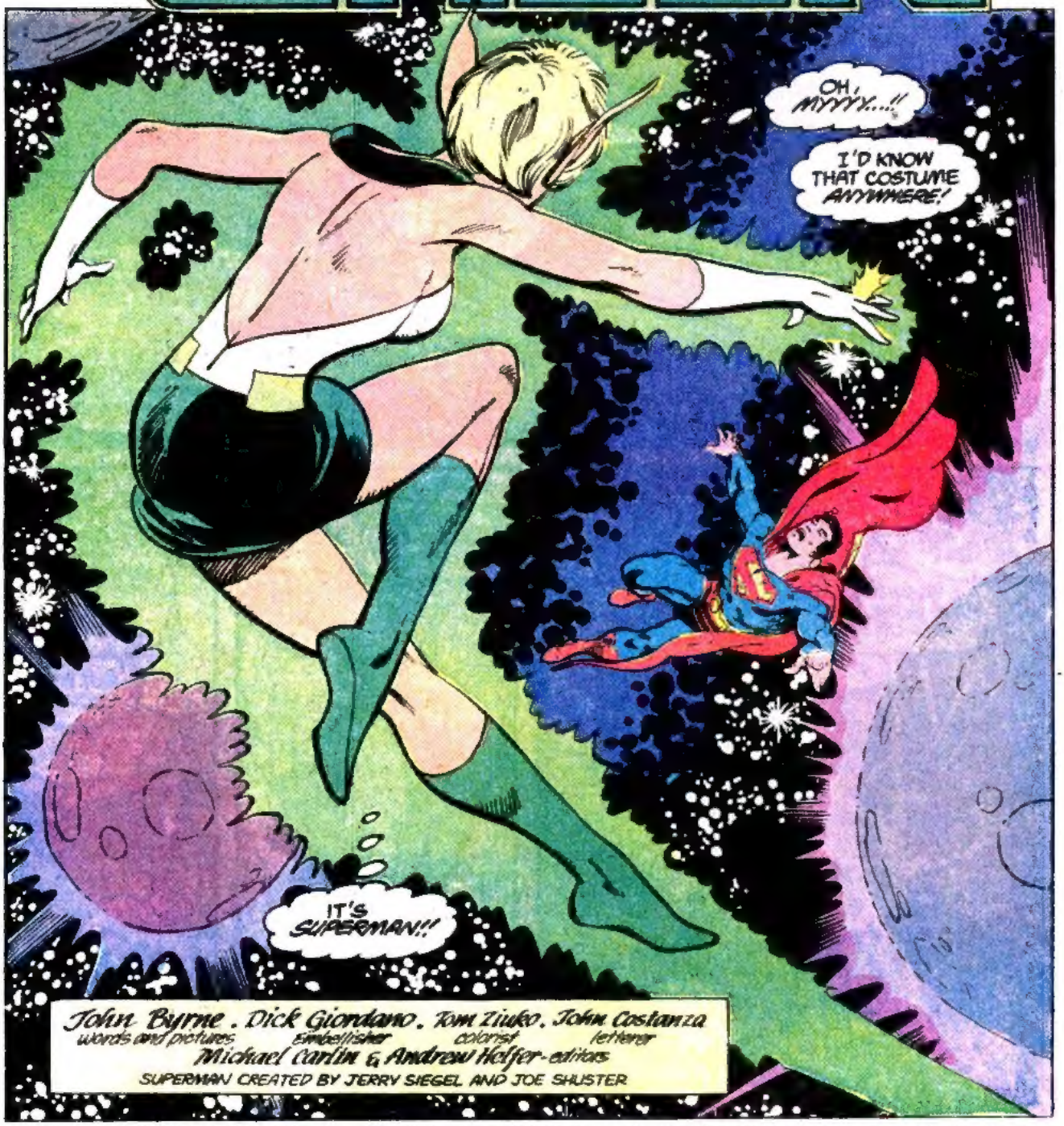
THE HISTORY OF THE DC UNIVERSE is must reading
BY BYRNE AND GIORDANO


DEEP SPACE.
FOUR HUNDRED THOUSAND LIGHT-YEARS FROM THE PLANET EARTH.
WELL, POOH! THIS IS A COMPLETE WASTE OF TIME IF EVER THERE WAS ONE!
I'VE SCOURED THIS CLUSTER FROM ONE END TO THE OTHER...
AND I CAN'T FIND EVEN A HINT OF THE KIND OF WORLD THEY NEED!
I WONDER IF MY FELLOW GREEN LANTERNS ARE FARING ANY BETTER?
I WISH I COULD HAVE GONE WITH HAL ON HIS...
OHH!!
SOME...
SOME KIND OF RIP IN SPACE!!
CAN'T KEEP CONTROL OF MY FLIGHT!
IT'S... PASSING...
MY POWER RING AUTOMATICALLY PROTECTED ME FROM THE WORST OF IT.
BUT WHAT COULD...
!?!
OH, MY...!!!

SUPERMAN and the GREEN LANTERN CORPS in...

GREEN ON GREEN



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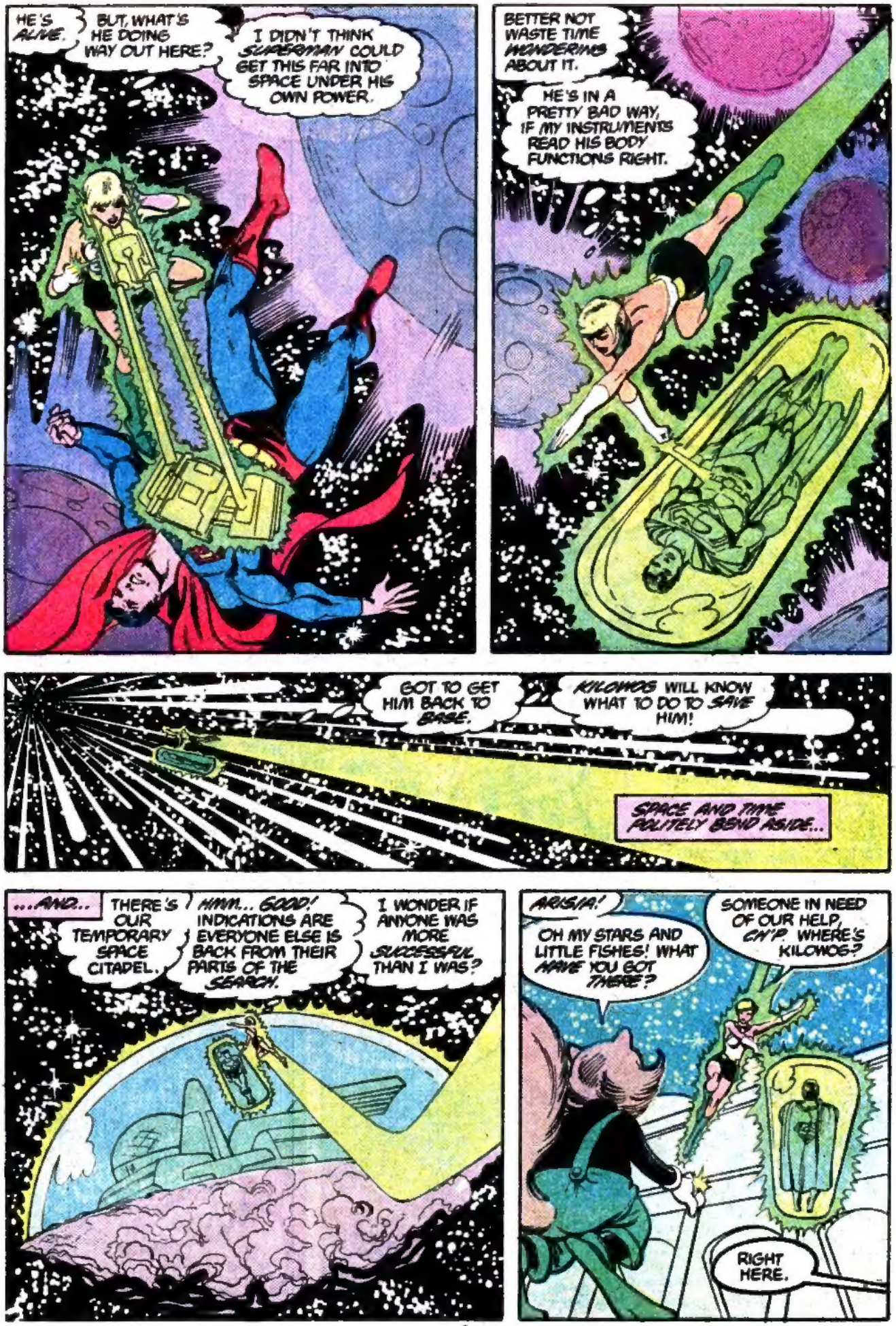
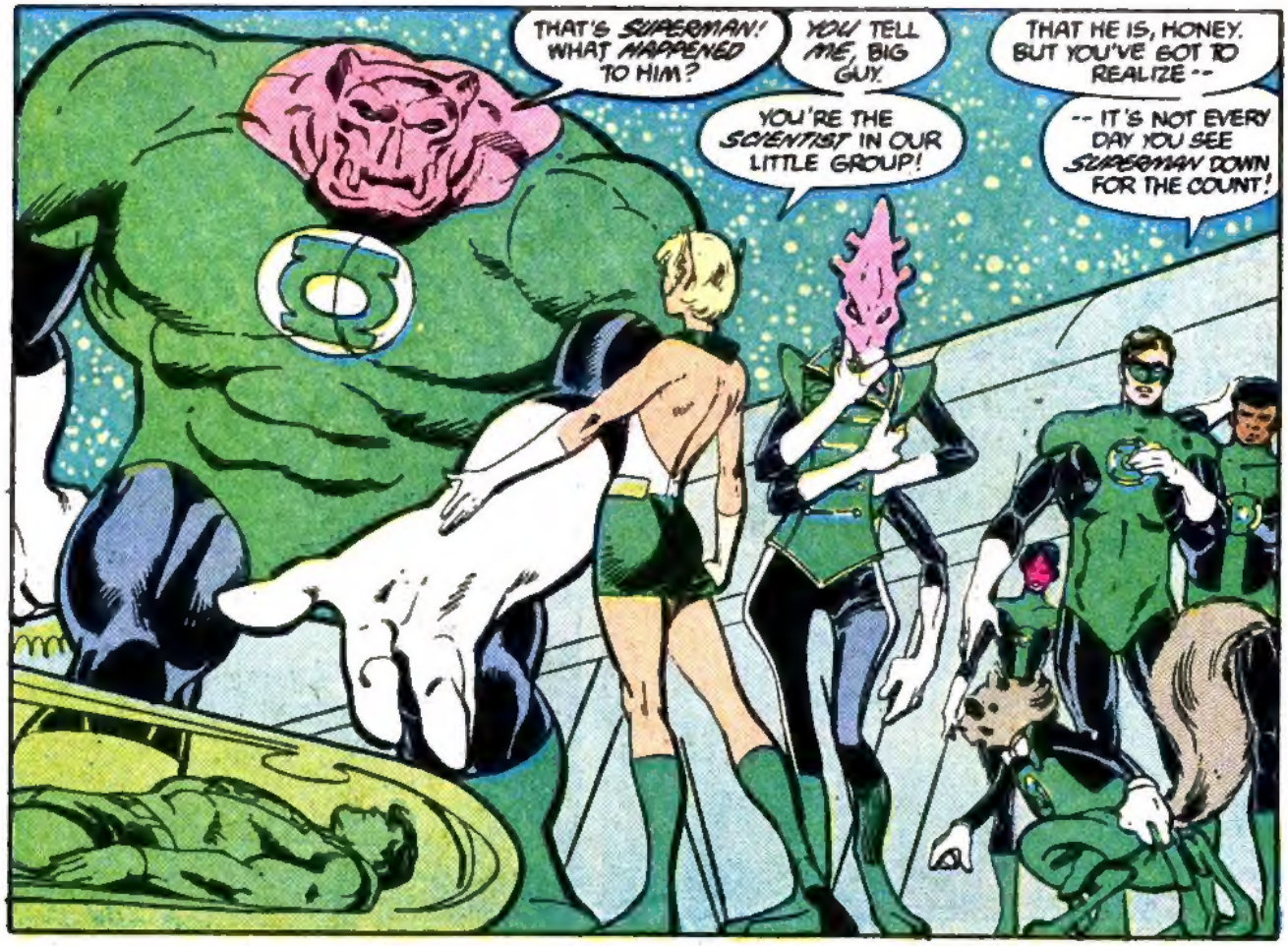
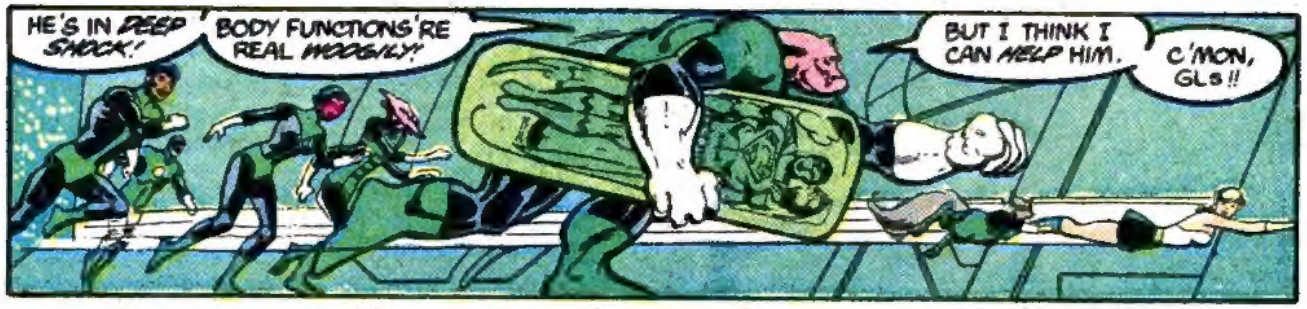
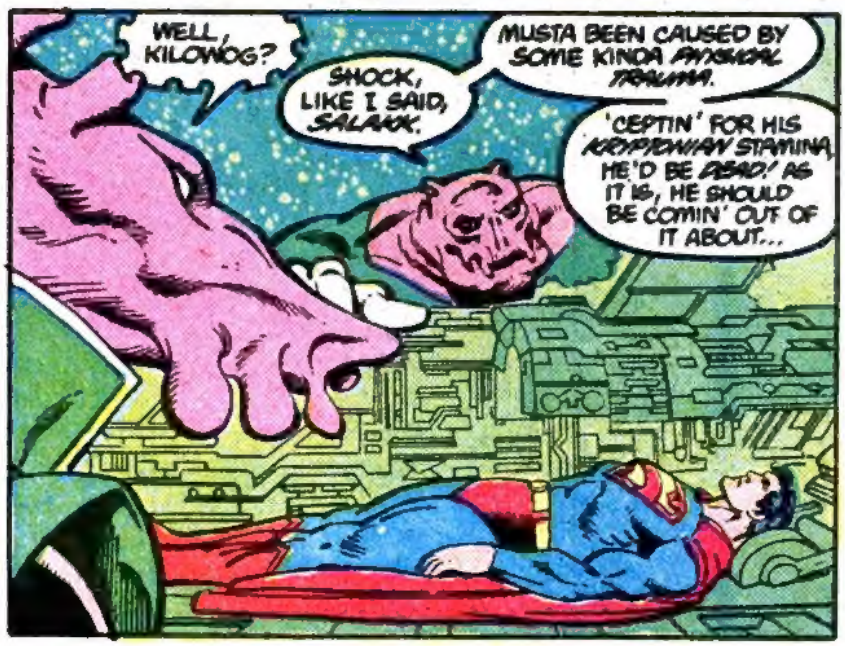

HE'S ALIVE.
BUT, WHAT'S HE DOING WAY OUT HERE?
I DIDN'T THINK SUPERMAN COULD GET THIS FAR INTO SPACE UNDER HIS OWN POWER.
BETTER NOT WASTE TIME WONDERING ABOUT IT.
HE'S IN A PRETTY BAD WAY, IF MY INSTRUMENTS READ HIS BODY FUNCTIONS RIGHT.
GOT TO GET HIM BACK TO BASE.
KILOWOG WILL KNOW WHAT TO DO TO SAVE HIM!
SPACE AND TIME POLITELY BEND ASIDE...
...AND...
THERE'S OUR TEMPORARY SPACE CITADEL.
HMM... GOOD! INDICATIONS ARE EVERYONE ELSE IS BACK FROM THEIR PARTS OF THE SEARCH.
I WONDER IF ANYONE WAS MORE SUCCESSFUL THAN I WAS?
ARISIA!
OH MY STARS AND LITTLE FISHES! WHAT HAVE YOU GOT THERE?
SOMEONE IN NEED OF OUR HELP, CA'P. WHERE'S KILOWOG?
RIGHT HERE.


THAT'S SUPERMAN! WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM?
YOU TELL ME, BIG GUY.
THAT HE IS, HONEY. BUT YOU'VE GOT TO REALIZE --
YOU'RE THE SCIENTIST IN OUR LITTLE GROUP!
-- IT'S NOT EVERY DAY YOU SEE SUPERMAN DOWN FOR THE COUNT!




WELL, KILOWOG?
SHOCK, LIKE I SAID, SALAAK.
MUSTA BEEN CAUSED BY SOME KINDA PHYSICAL TRAUMA.
'CEPTIN' FOR HIS HAWKMAN STAMINA, HE'D BE DEAD! AS IT IS, HE SHOULD BE COMIN' OUT OF IT ABOUT...

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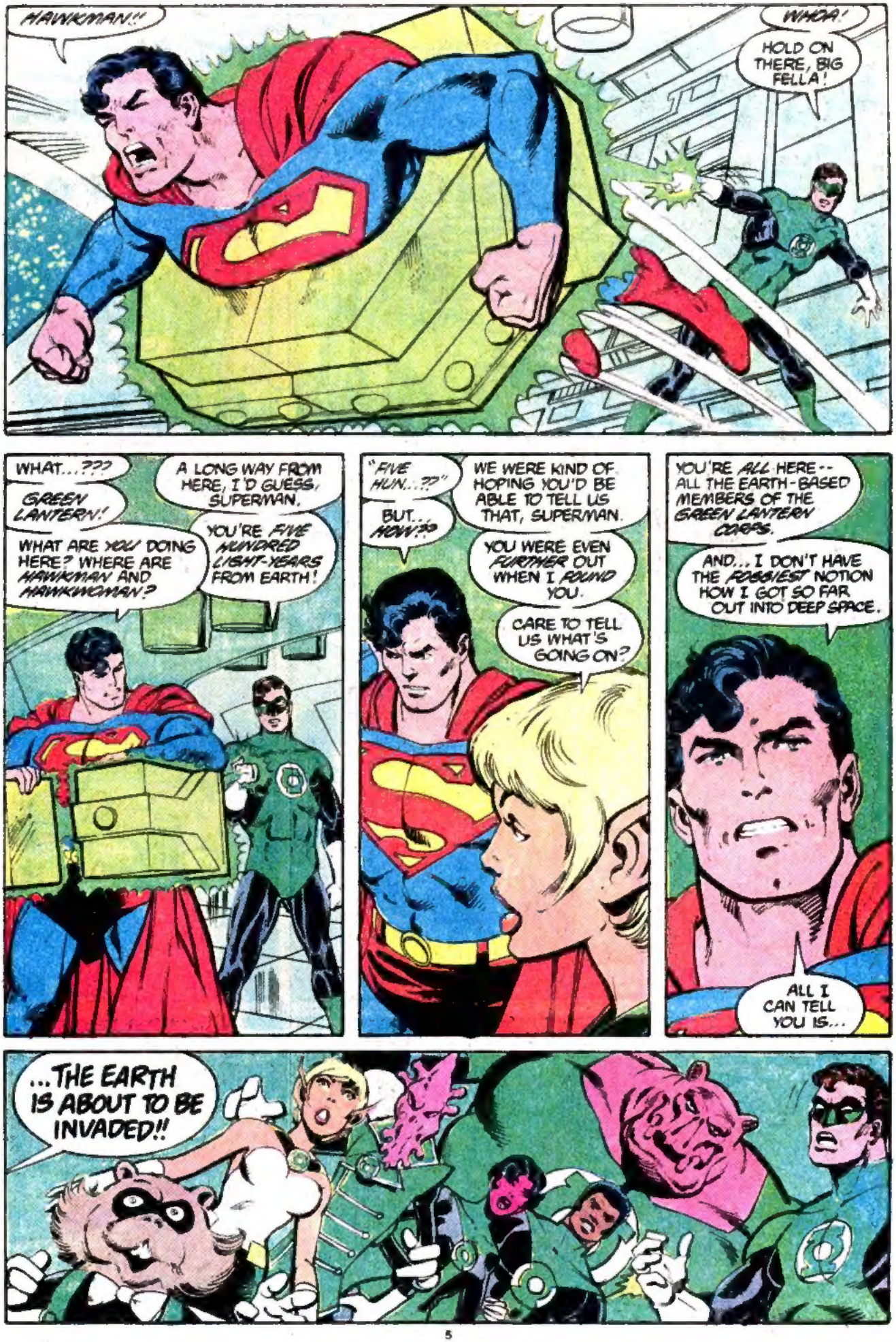
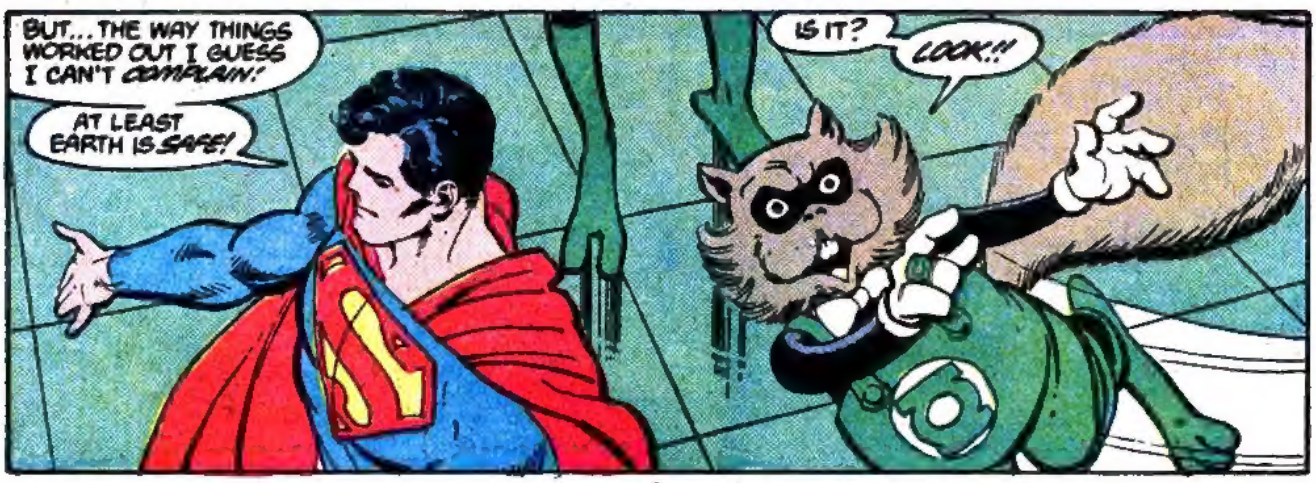

HAWKMAN!!
WHOA!
HOLD ON THERE, BIG FELLA!
WHAT...???
GREEN LANTERN!
A LONG WAY FROM HERE, I'D GUESS, SUPERMAN.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE? WHERE ARE HAWKMAN AND HAWKWOMAN?
YOU'RE FIVE HUNDRED LIGHT-YEARS FROM EARTH!
"FIVE HUN...??"
BUT... HOW??
WE WERE KIND OF HOPING YOU'D BE ABLE TO TELL US THAT, SUPERMAN.
YOU WERE EVEN FURTHER OUT WHEN I FOUND YOU.
CARE TO TELL US WHAT'S GOING ON?
YOU'RE ALL HERE -- ALL THE EARTH-BASED MEMBERS OF THE GREEN LANTERN CORPS.
AND... I DON'T HAVE THE FOGGIEST NOTION HOW I GOT SO FAR OUT INTO DEEP SPACE.
ALL I CAN TELL YOU IS...
...THE EARTH IS ABOUT TO BE INVADED!!

BUT...
WELL, SUPERMAN, OUR LONG-RANGE SCANNERS CAN FIND NO TRACE OF ANY INVASION FLEET.
INCREDIBLE!
THERE WERE A THOUSAND THANAGARIAN SHIPS LYING IN WAIT BEHIND EARTH'S MOON.*
IF SO, WHERE ARE THEY NOW?
* DETAILED LAST ISSUE.

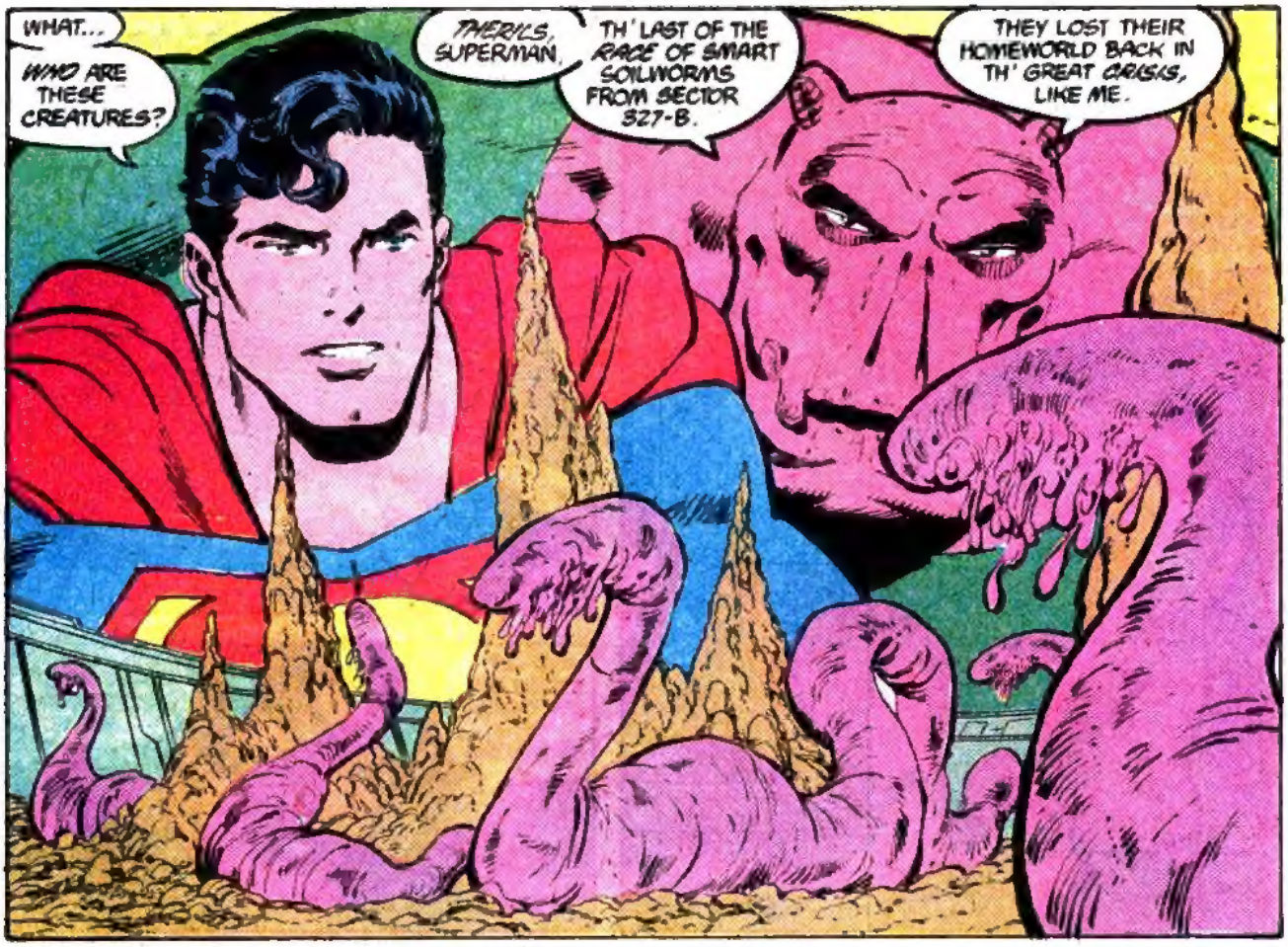
I THINK I CAN GUESS. THE EFFECT ARISIA MONITORED JUST BEFORE SHE SPOTTED SUPERMAN SOUNDS A LOT LIKE WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF A NUMBER OF OVERLAPPING STARSHIP HYPERDRIVES WERE FIRED SIMULTANEOUSLY.

ALL THE SHIPS WOULD BE HURLED ACROSS THE UNIVERSE IN OPPOSITE DIRECTIONS.
HMMM...
THAT MAKES SENSE.
I BELIEVE THE THANAGARIANS HAVE A MANEUVER CALLED "OVERLORD" WHICH TRIGGERS SUCH AN EFFECT.
JUST BEFORE I LOST CONSCIOUSNESS THE HAWKS HAD SIGNALLED ME TO GET BACK TO THEIR SHIP.

THAT'S PROBABLY IT, THEN. THEY'D RIGGED UP THIS OVERLORD THING, AND SOMETHING FORCED THEM TO FIRE IT BEFORE YOU WERE SAFE AND SOUND ABOARD THEIR CRAFT.
SO I WAS CAUGHT IN THE SPACE WARP, TOO.
NOT THE MOST PLEASANT EXPERIENCE OF MY LIFE.


BUT... THE WAY THINGS WORKED OUT I GUESS I CAN'T COMPLAIN!
AT LEAST EARTH IS SAFE!
IS IT?
LOOK!!

WHAT IN THE NAME OF...?!?
IT'S BIG AS A PLANET!!
WHAT IS THAT THING? A COMET?
NEGATIVE.
SCANNERS INDICATE A COHESIVE CLOUD OF... BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL!
WHATEVER THAT OBJECT IS, IT'S ALIVE!
AND ITS ORBIT WILL INTERSECT THE EARTH'S...
...LESS THAN THREE HOURS FROM NOW!
THEN IT'S HIGH TIME WE HEADED HOME, LANTERNS.
THAT THING IS TOO BIG FOR ME TO HANDLE ALONE.
IT MAY NEED ALL OUR POWER!
NO.
KILOWOG?
DON'T YOU WANT TO HELP EARTH?
IF IT NEEDS IT, SUPERMAN. DON'T REALLY KNOW YET IF IT DOES.
BUT THESE OTHERS HERE NEED OUR HELP REAL BAD..
AND SOON!


WHAT...
WHO ARE THESE CREATURES?
THERE'S SUPERMAN.
TH' LAST OF THE RACE OF SMART SOILWORMS FROM SECTOR 327-B.
THEY LOST THEIR HOMEWORLD BACK IN TH' GREAT CRISIS, LIKE ME.

YEAH. CH'P AND I FOUND 'EM ON A SCRAP OF ROCK, FLOATING THROUGH SPACE.
THEY WERE ALL ALMOST DEAD. WE BROUGHT 'EM BACK HERE, AND KILOWOG FIGURED OUT A WAY TO DUPLICATE THEIR NATURAL ENVIRONMENT.
WHEN THEY'D RECOVERED ENOUGH TO COMMUNICATE, THEY ASKED US TO HELP THEM FIND A NEW HOME-WORLD.

THAT'S WHAT WE WERE DOIN' WHEN ARISIA FOUND YOU, SUPERMAN.
SO FAR OUR SEARCH HASN'T TURNED UP ANYTHING THEY CAN USE.
HMM. STILL, SURELY SOME OF YOU CAN COME BACK WITH ME TO EARTH -- JUST IN CASE THAT BIO-CLOUD IS A MENACE?

IT WOULD SEEM MOST EFFICACIOUS TO DIVIDE OUR TEAM.
AND THE REST OF US COULD GO BACK TO EARTH!
CH'P, JOHN STEWART AND KILOWOG ARE MOST DEDICATED TO HELPING THE WORMS...
I'LL BET FOUR GREEN LANTERNS AND ONE SUPERMAN CAN WHIP. THAT BIG GREEN FUZZBALL EASILY!

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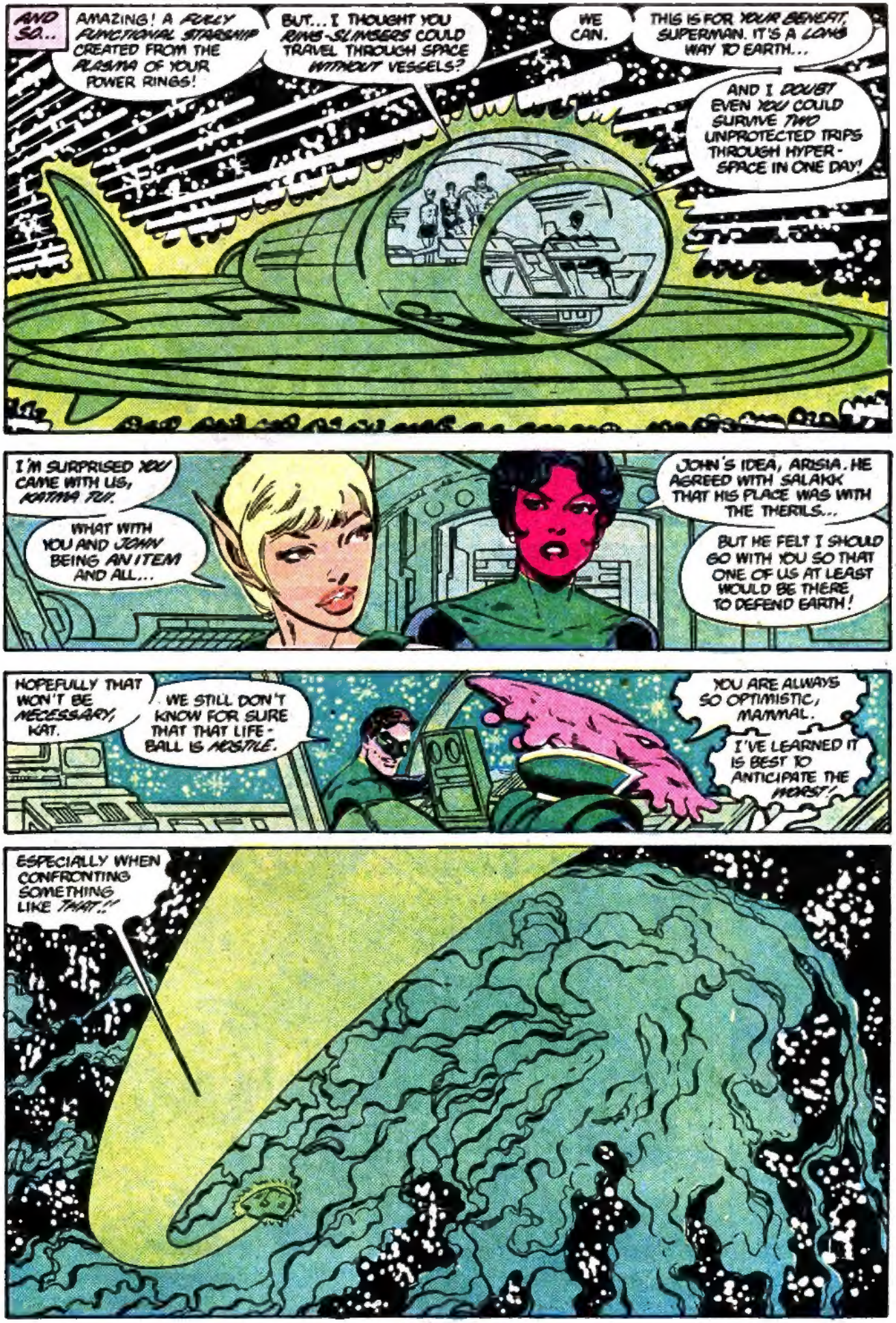
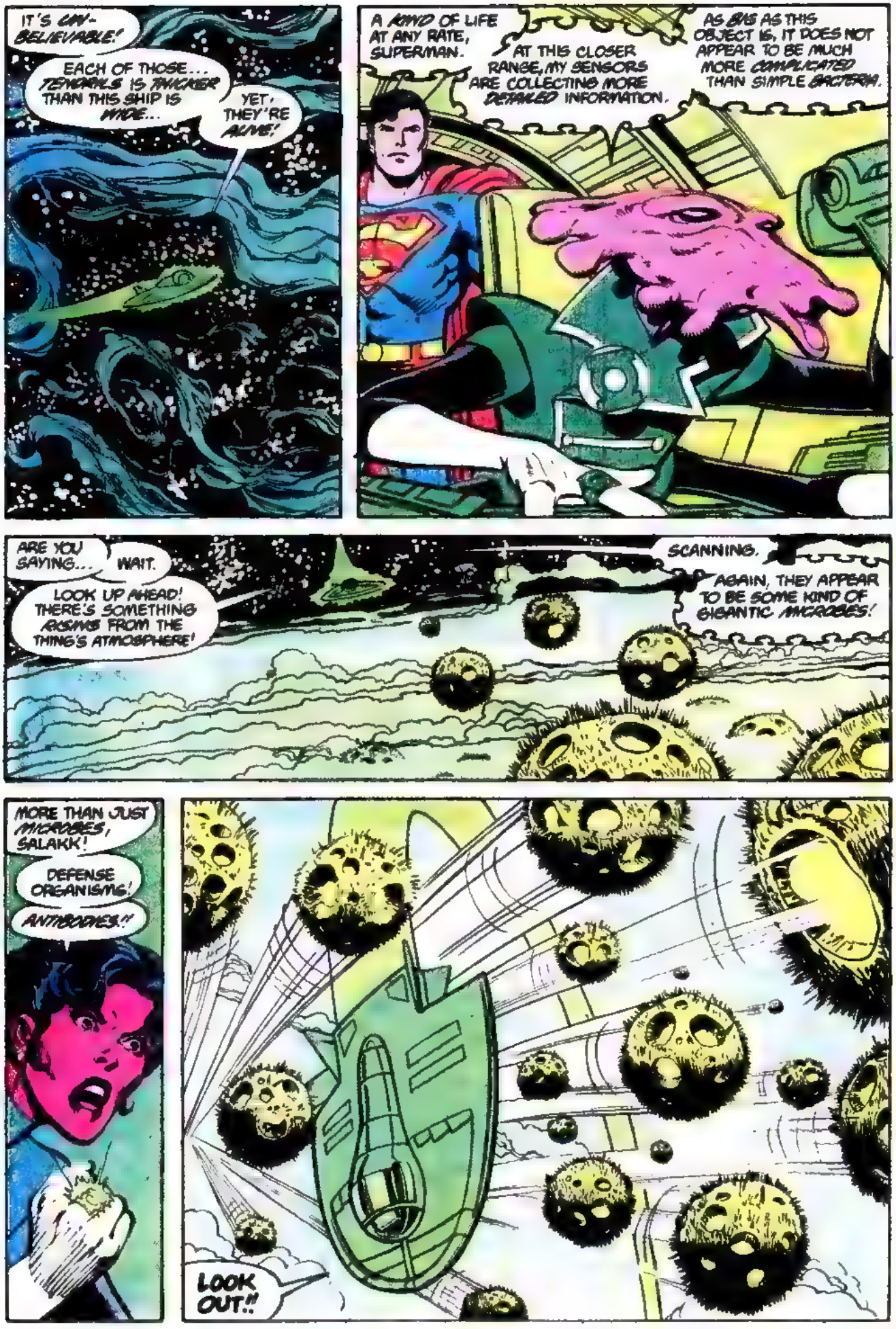
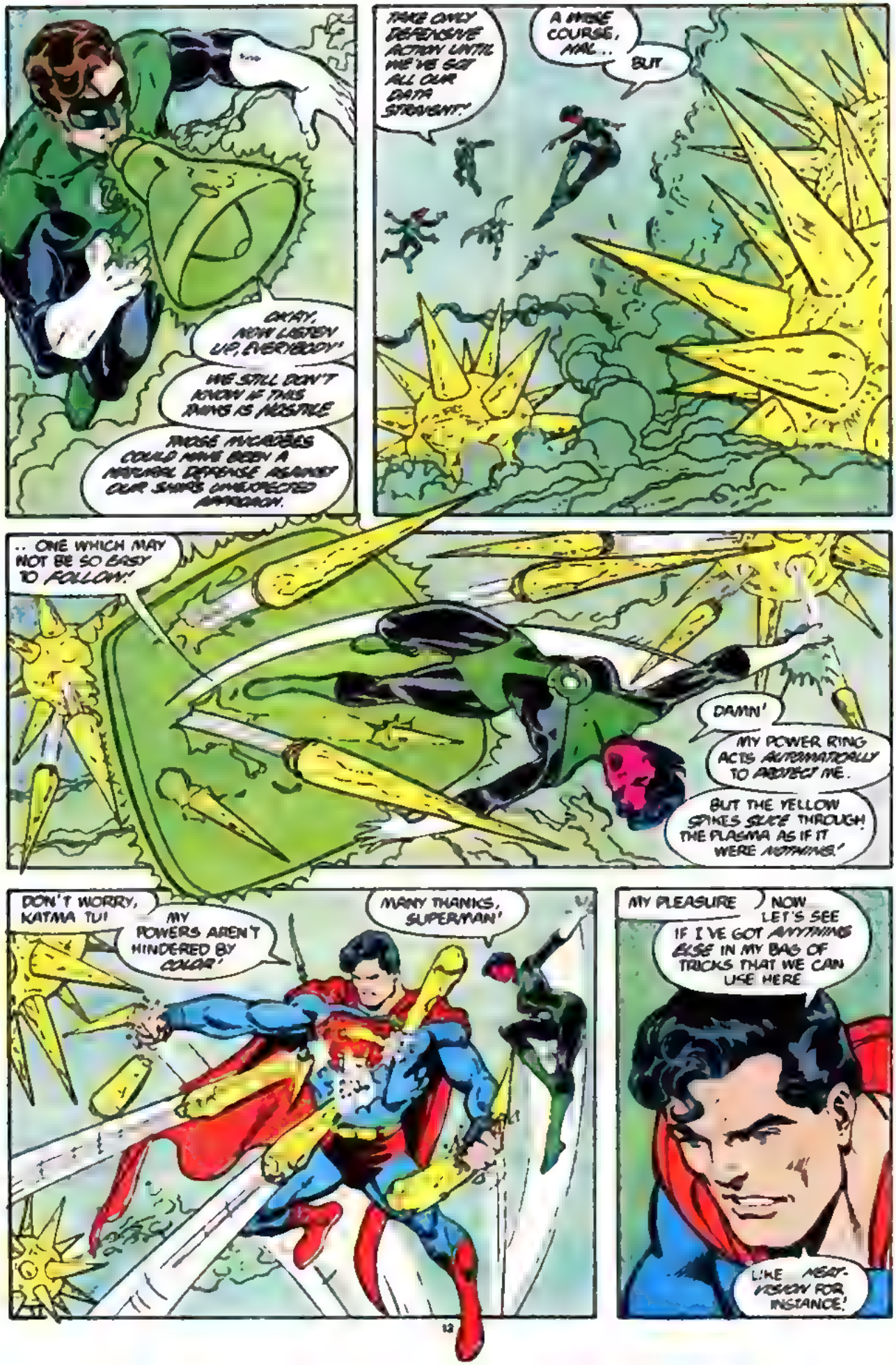
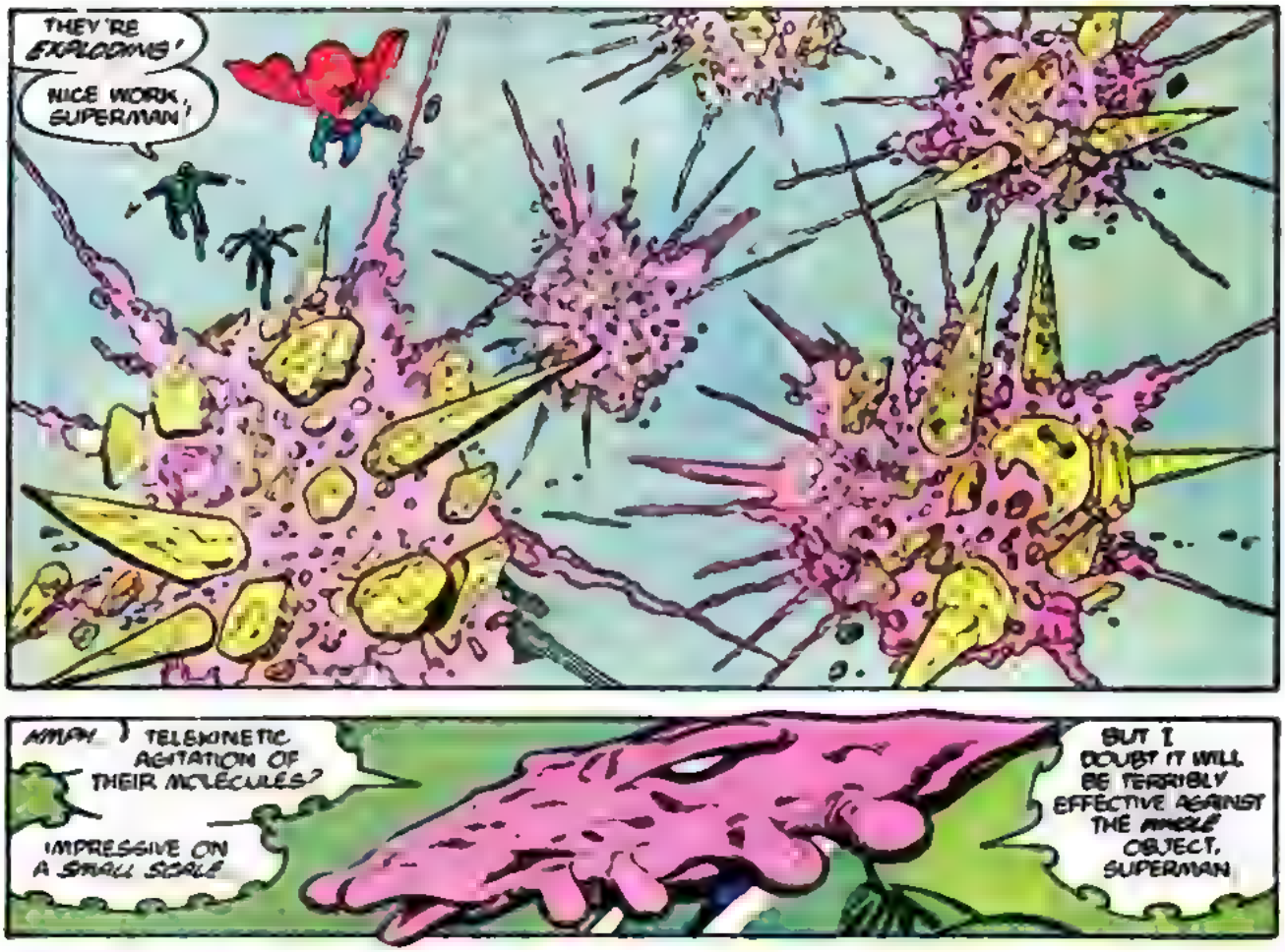

AND SO...
AMAZING! A FULLY FUNCTIONAL STARSHIP CREATED FROM THE PLASMA OF YOUR POWER RINGS!
BUT... I THOUGHT YOU RING-SLINGERS COULD TRAVEL THROUGH SPACE WITHOUT VESSELS?
WE CAN.
THIS IS FOR YOUR BENEFIT, SUPERMAN. IT'S A LONG WAY TO EARTH...
AND I DOUBT EVEN YOU COULD SURVIVE TWO UNPROTECTED TRIPS THROUGH HYPER-SPACE IN ONE DAY!
I'M SURPRISED YOU CAME WITH US, KATMA TUI.
WHAT WITH YOU AND JOHN BEING AN ITEM AND ALL...
JOHN'S IDEA, ARISIA. HE AGREED WITH SALAKK THAT HIS PLACE WAS WITH THE THERILS...
BUT HE FELT I SHOULD GO WITH YOU SO THAT ONE OF US AT LEAST WOULD BE THERE TO DEFEND EARTH!
HOPEFULLY THAT WON'T BE NECESSARY, KAT.
WE STILL DON'T KNOW FOR SURE THAT THAT LIFE-BALL IS HOSTILE.
YOU ARE ALWAYS SO OPTIMISTIC, MAMMAL.
I'VE LEARNED IT IS BEST TO ANTICIPATE THE WORST!
ESPECIALLY WHEN CONFRONTING SOMETHING LIKE THAT!!

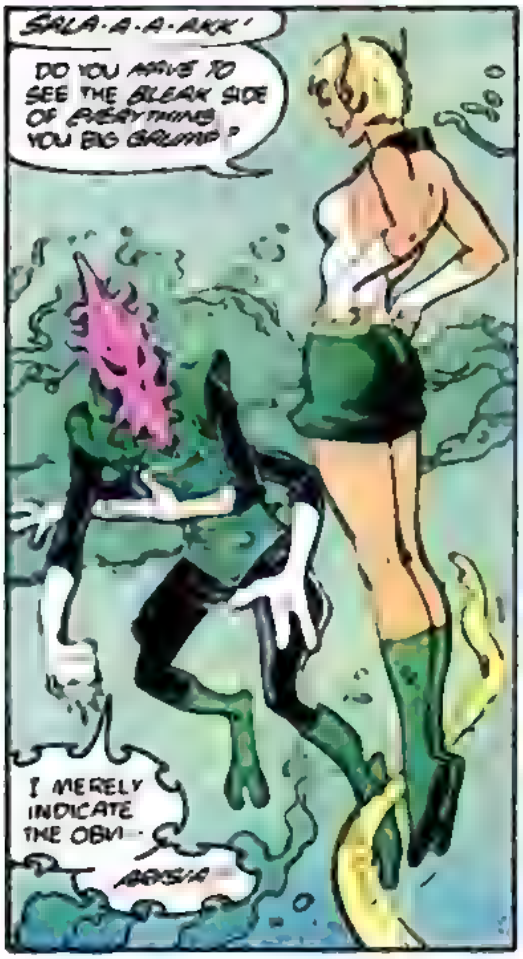

IT'S UNBELIEVABLE!
EACH OF THOSE... TENTACLES IS THICKER THAN THIS SHIP IS WIDE...
YET, THEY'RE ALIVE!
A KIND OF LIFE AT ANY RATE, SUPERMAN.
AT THIS CLOSER RANGE, MY SENSORS ARE COLLECTING MORE DETAILED INFORMATION.
AS BIG AS THIS OBJECT IS, IT DOES NOT APPEAR TO BE MUCH MORE COMPLICATED THAN SIMPLE BACTERIA.
ARE YOU SAYING... WAIT.
LOOK UP AHEAD! THERE'S SOMETHING RISING FROM THE THING'S ATMOSPHERE!
SCANNING.
AGAIN, THEY APPEAR TO BE SOME KIND OF GIGANTIC MICROBES!
MORE THAN JUST MICROBES, SALAKK!
DEFENSE ORGANISMS!
ANTIBODIES!!
LOOK OUT!!

IT'S NO GOOD!
TOO MANY OF 'EM TO DODGE!
KRONG
KROW!
THEY'RE GOING TO TEAR US APART!
BLAST! YOUR POWER RINGS ARE USELESS AGAINST ANYTHING COLORED YELLOW, RIGHT?
LUCKILY MOST OF THIS STUFF IS GREEN!
I'M AFRAID NOT, SUPERMAN.
WHAT IS IT, SALAKK?
MORE BAD NEWS, OF COURSE.
THE APPARENT GREEN HUE OF THIS OBJECT IS CAUSED BY A FINE CLOUD OF BLUE PARTICLES FLOATING AROUND IT
THE BULK OF THE OBJECT-- ALL ITS INDIVIDUAL COMPONENTS-- IS YELLOW!
OH, GREAT! THANKS FOR THE GOOD NEWS, SALAKK.
I ONLY REPORT WHAT IS, ARISIA I DO NOT CREATE THE SITUATION.
NO ONE'S SAYING YOU DO, SALAKK.
OKAY, EVERYBODY, THAT'S A BREATHABLE ATMOSPHERE OUT THERE.
EVERY MAN FOR HIMSELF!
ABANDON SHIP!!

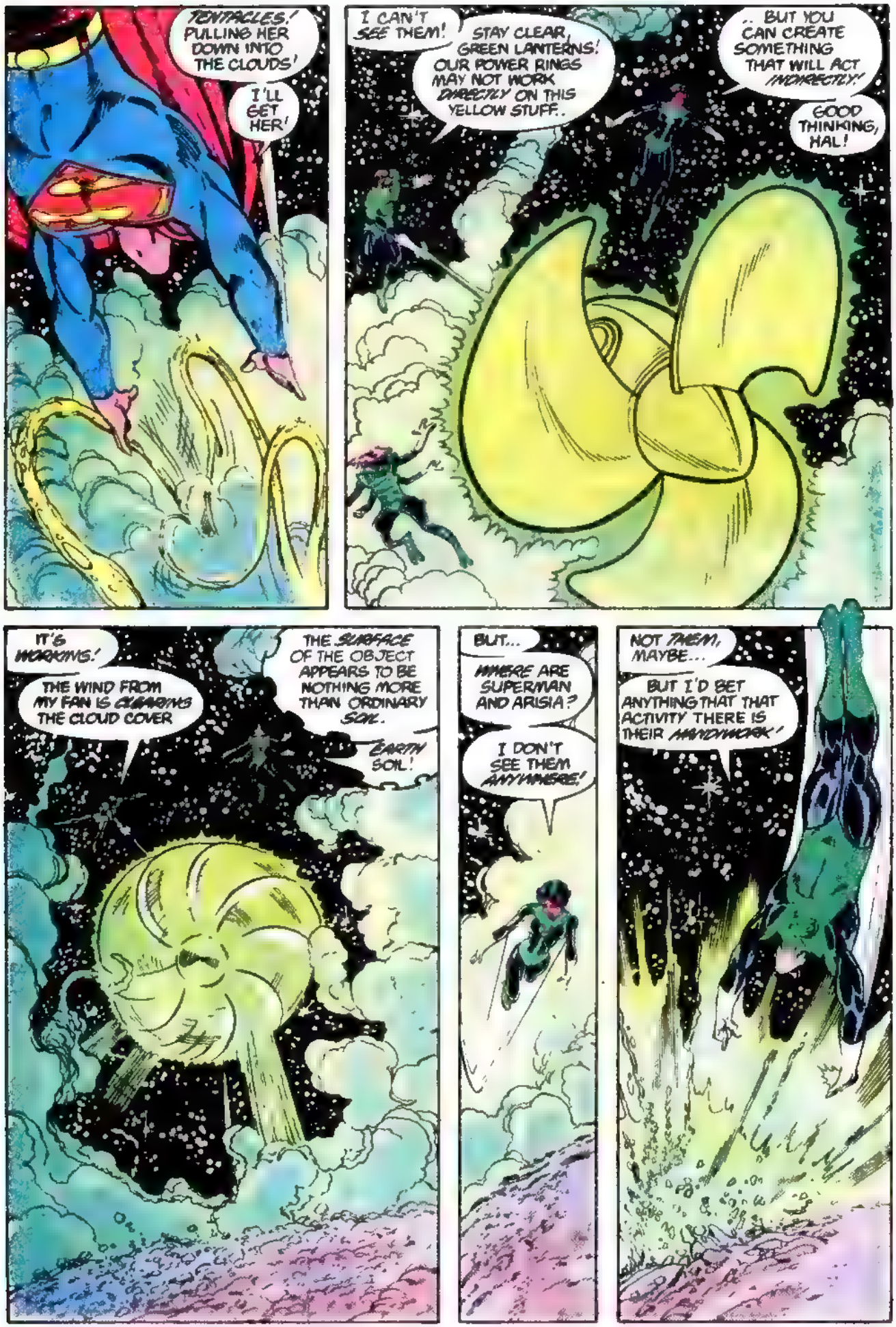

OKAY, NOW LISTEN UP, EVERYBODY!
WE STILL DON'T KNOW IF THIS THING IS HOSTILE
THOSE MISSILES COULD HAVE BEEN A NATURAL DEFENSE AGAINST OUR SHIP'S UNEXPECTED ARRIVAL.
TAKE ONLY DEFENSIVE ACTION UNTIL WE'VE GOT ALL OUR DATA STRAIGHT!
A WISE COURSE, HAL..
BUT...
.. ONE WHICH MAY NOT BE SO EASY TO FOLLOW!
DAMN!
MY POWER RING ACTS AUTOMATICALLY TO PROTECT ME.
BUT THE YELLOW SPIKES SLICE THROUGH THE PLASMA AS IF IT WERE NOTHING!
DON'T WORRY, KATMA TUI
MY POWERS AREN'T HINDERED BY COLOR!
MANY THANKS, SUPERMAN!
MY PLEASURE
NOW LET'S SEE IF I'VE GOT ANYTHING ELSE IN MY BAG OF TRICKS THAT WE CAN USE HERE
LIKE HEAT-VISION FOR INSTANCE!


THEY'RE EXPLODING!
NICE WORK, SUPERMAN!

AHAH! TELEKINETIC AGITATION OF THEIR MOLECULES?
IMPRESSIVE ON A SMALL SCALE
BUT I DOUBT IT WILL BE TERRIBLY EFFECTIVE AGAINST THE ANGLE OBJECT, SUPERMAN


SALA-A-A-AKK!
DO YOU HAVE TO SEE THE BLEAK SIDE OF EVERYTHING YOU BIG GRUMP?
I MERELY INDICATE THE OBVI-
ABYSIA

OH-HHH!

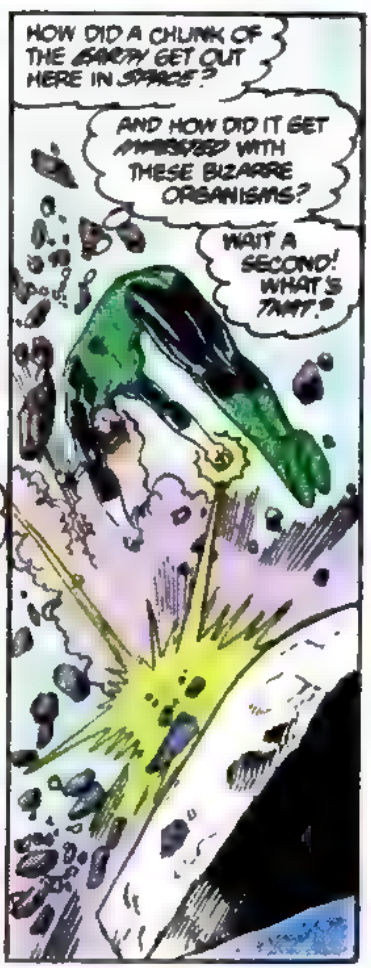

TENTACLES! PULLING HER DOWN INTO THE CLOUDS!
I'LL GET HER!
I CAN'T SEE THEM!
STAY CLEAR, GREEN LANTERNS! OUR POWER RINGS MAY NOT WORK DIRECTLY ON THIS YELLOW STUFF..
.. BUT YOU CAN CREATE SOMETHING THAT WILL ACT INDIRECTLY!
GOOD THINKING, HAL!
IT'S WORKING!
THE WIND FROM MY FAN IS CLEARING THE CLOUD COVER
THE SURFACE OF THE OBJECT APPEARS TO BE NOTHING MORE THAN ORDINARY SOIL.
EARTH SOIL!
BUT...
WHERE ARE SUPERMAN AND ARISIA?
I DON'T SEE THEM ANYWHERE!
NOT THEM, MAYBE...
BUT I'D BET ANYTHING THAT THAT ACTIVITY THERE IS THEIR HANDIWORK!

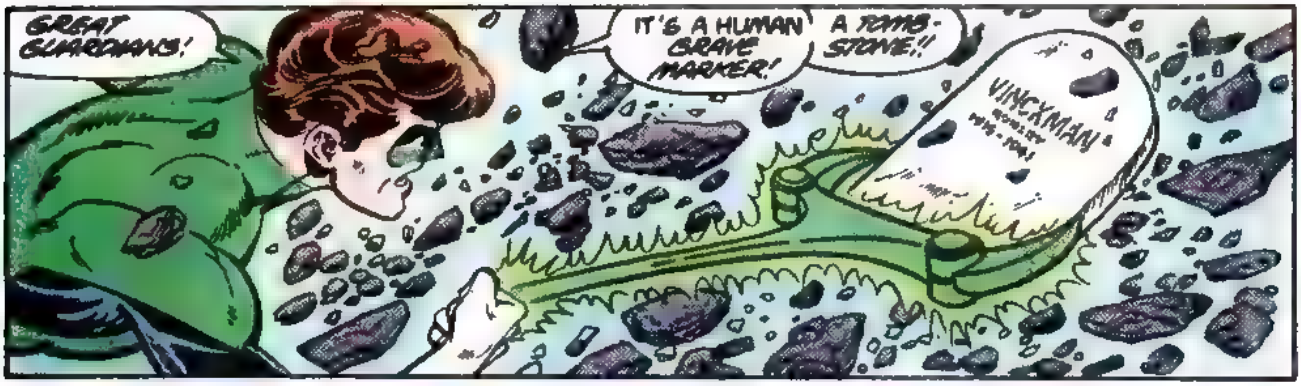
IT'S THEM, ALL RIGHT!
SUPERMAN'S USING HIS VAST STRENGTH AGAINST THE TENTACLES.
AND ARISIA'S POWER RING HAS NO DIFFICULTY BLASTING AWAY THE NON-YELLOW SUPPORTING SOIL.

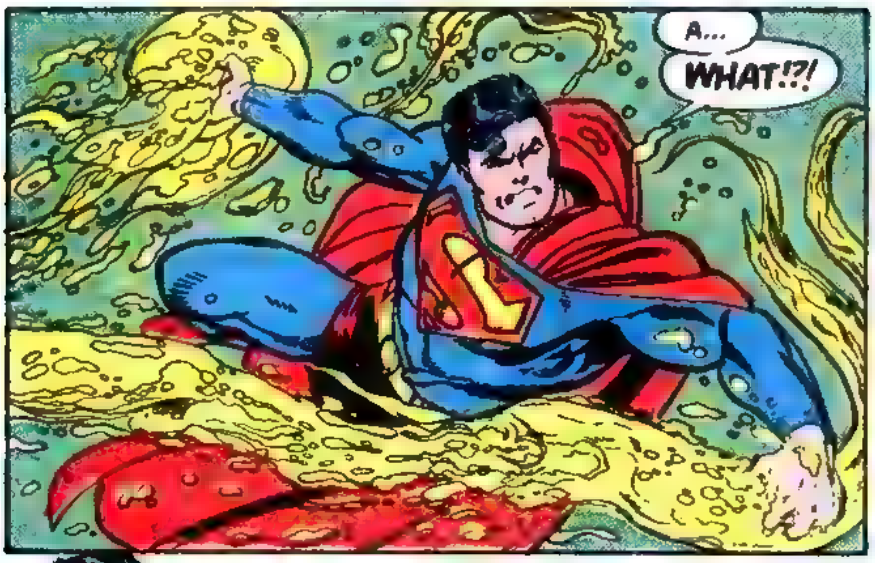
LOOKS LIKE WE MAY STAND A GOOD CHANCE OF BEATING THIS THING YET!
GREEN LANTERN CORPS...
--ATTACK!!

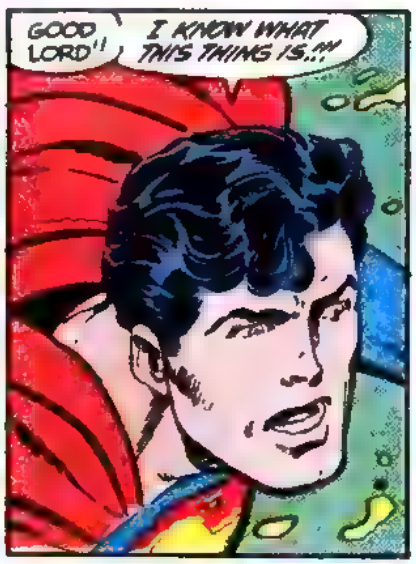
NOW THIS IS MORE LIKE IT! I WAS FEELING A LITTLE TOO HELPLESS THERE FOR A WHILE.
ALL MY LIFE, I'VE BEEN A MAN OF ACTION! TAKING LUMPS FROM THIS MUDBALL WAS BAD FOR MY SELF-ESTEEM!

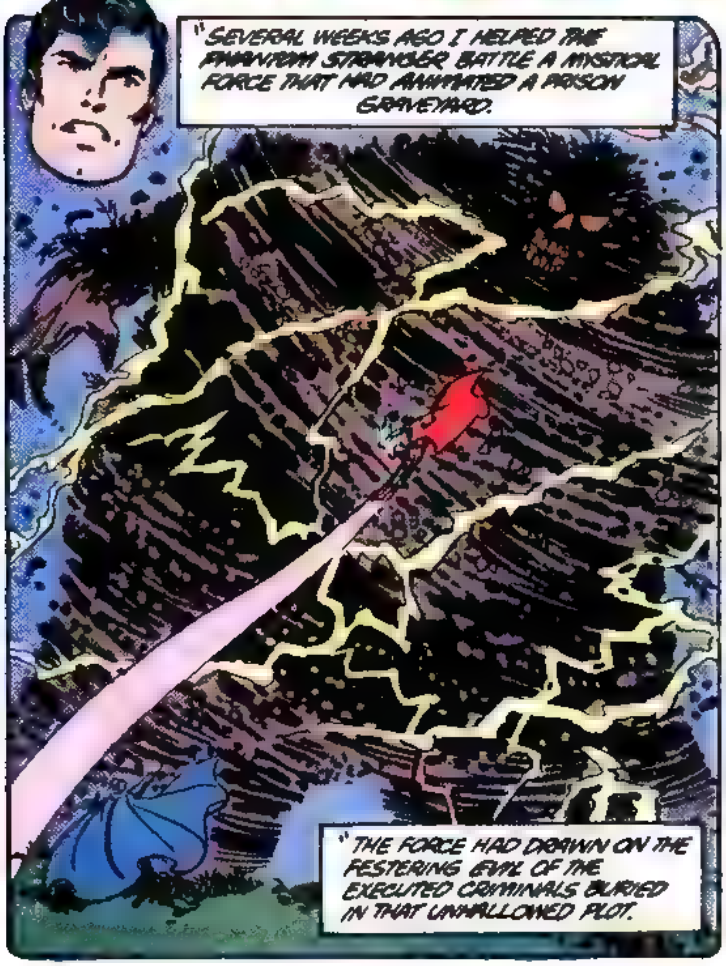
WEIRD...
...SALAKK WAS RIGHT! THIS STUFF LOOKS LIKE ORDINARY SOIL...
...SIMPLE DIRT!
EVEN THE BIGGEST PIECES BREAK UP EASILY.

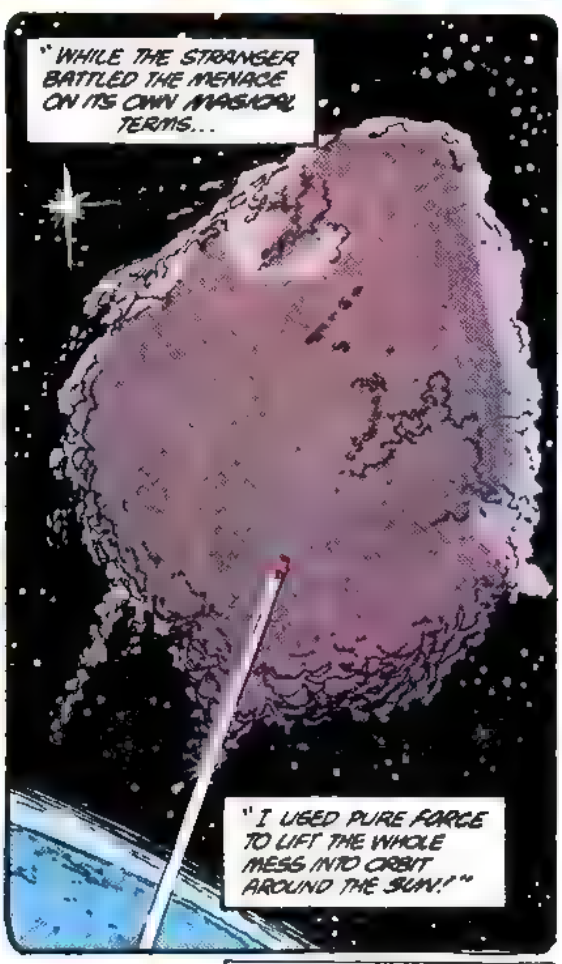

HOW DID A CHUNK OF THE EARTH GET OUT HERE IN SPACE?
AND HOW DID IT GET INFESTED WITH THESE BIZARRE ORGANISMS?
WAIT A SECOND! WHAT'S THAT?








"SEVERAL WEEKS AGO I HELPED THE PHANTOM STRANGER BATTLE A MYSTICAL FORCE THAT HAD ANIMATED A PRISON GRAVEYARD.
"THE FORCE HAD DRAWN ON THE FESTERING EVIL OF THE EXECUTED CRIMINALS BURIED IN THAT UNHALLOWED PLOT.


"WHILE THE STRANGER BATTLED THE MENACE ON ITS OWN MAGICAL TERMS...
"I USED PURE FORCE TO LIFT THE WHOLE MESS INTO ORBIT AROUND THE SUN!"

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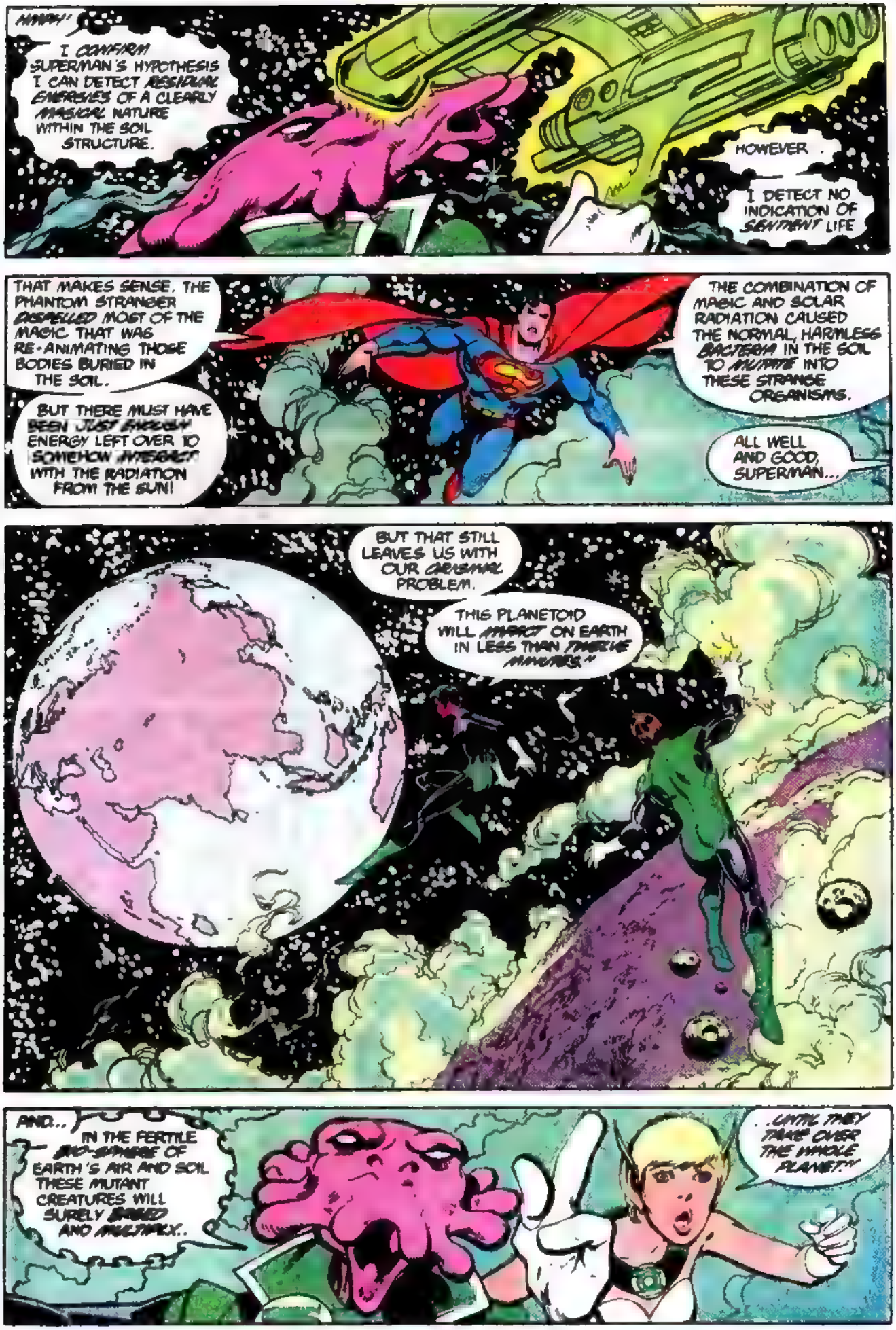
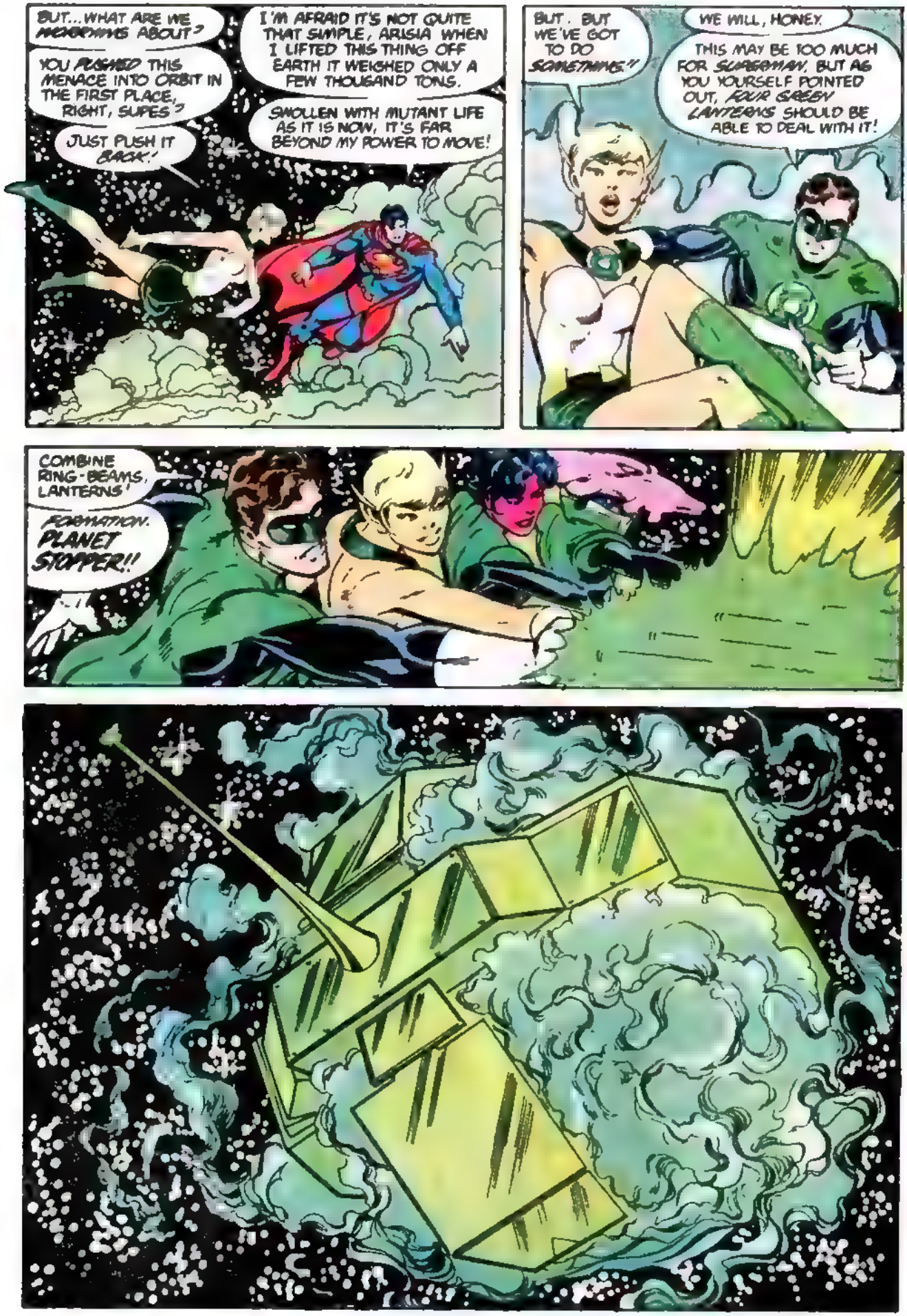
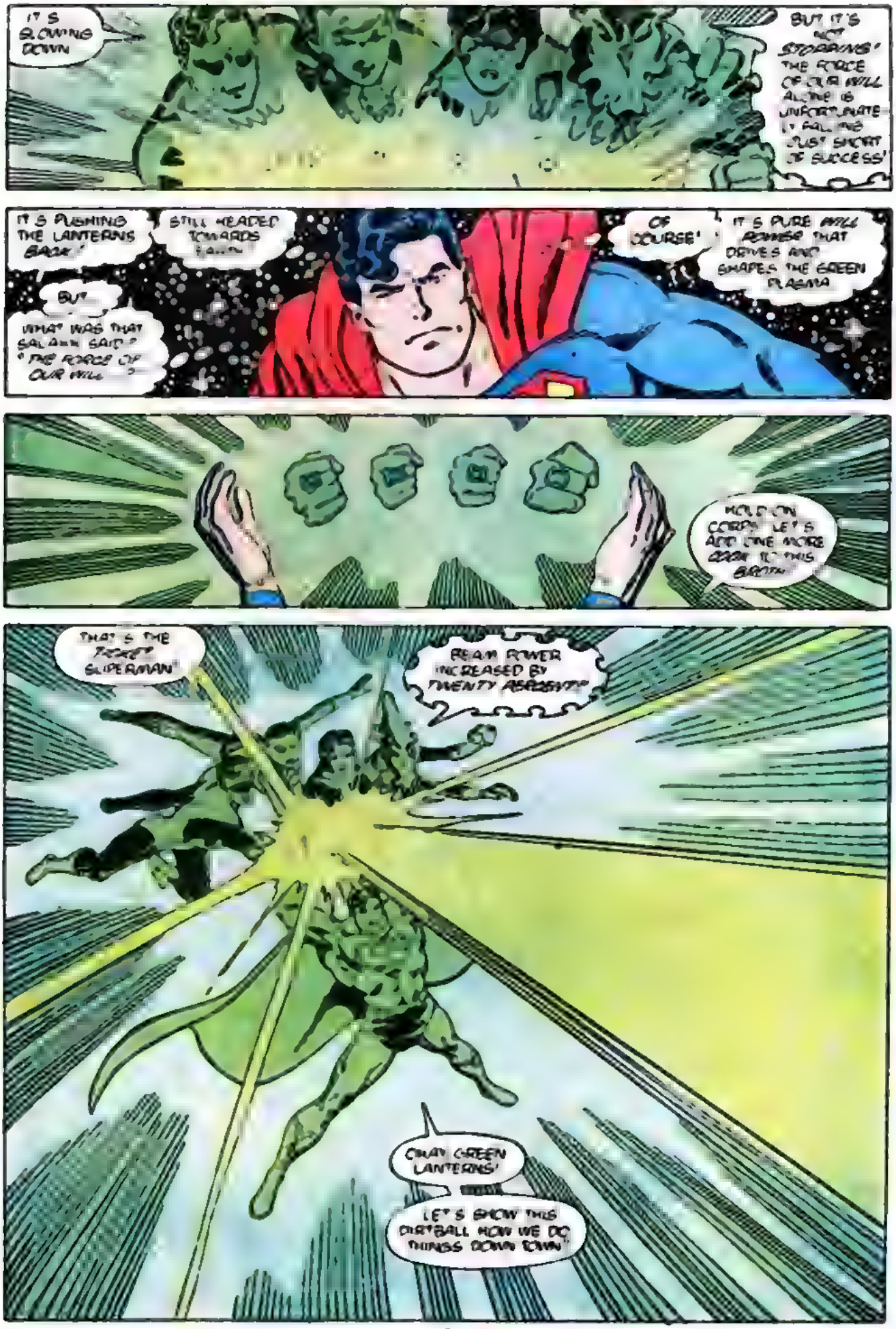
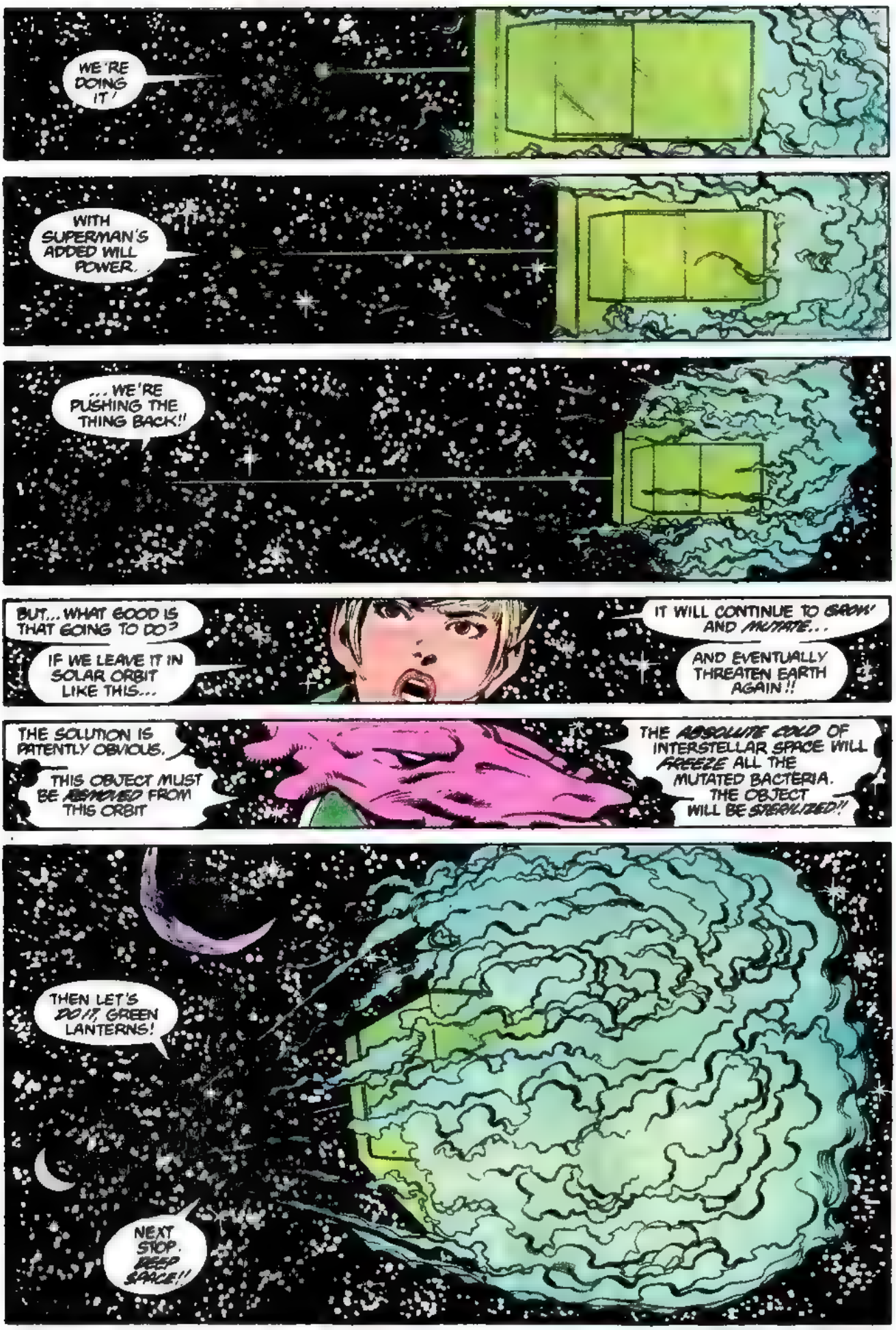
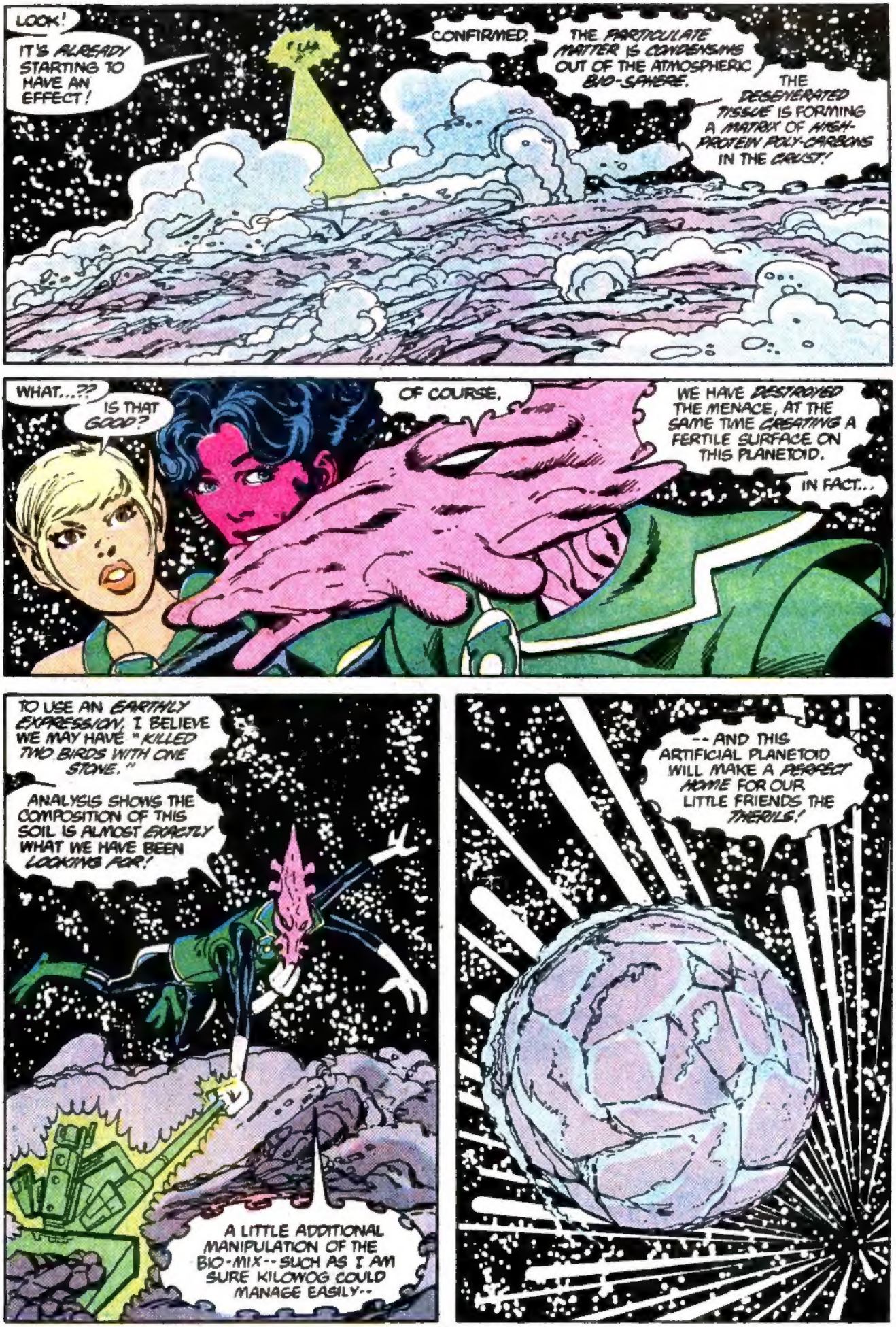

HMMM!
I CONFIRM SUPERMAN'S HYPOTHESIS I CAN DETECT RESIDUAL ENERGIES OF A CLEARLY MAGICAL NATURE WITHIN THE SOIL STRUCTURE.
HOWEVER...
I DETECT NO INDICATION OF SENTIENT LIFE
THAT MAKES SENSE. THE PHANTOM STRANGER DISPELLED MOST OF THE MAGIC THAT WAS RE-ANIMATING THOSE BODIES BURIED IN THE SOIL.
BUT THERE MUST HAVE BEEN JUST ENOUGH ENERGY LEFT OVER TO SOMEHOW INTEGRATE WITH THE RADIATION FROM THE SUN!
THE COMBINATION OF MAGIC AND SOLAR RADIATION CAUSED THE NORMAL, HARMLESS BACTERIA IN THE SOIL TO MUTATE INTO THESE STRANGE ORGANISMS.
ALL WELL AND GOOD, SUPERMAN...
BUT THAT STILL LEAVES US WITH OUR ORIGINAL PROBLEM.
THIS PLANETOID WILL IMPACT ON EARTH IN LESS THAN TWELVE MINUTES!"
AND... IN THE FERTILE BIO-SPHERE OF EARTH'S AIR AND SOIL THESE MUTANT CREATURES WILL SURELY BREED AND MULTIPLY..
.UNTIL THEY TAKE OVER THE WHOLE PLANET!"

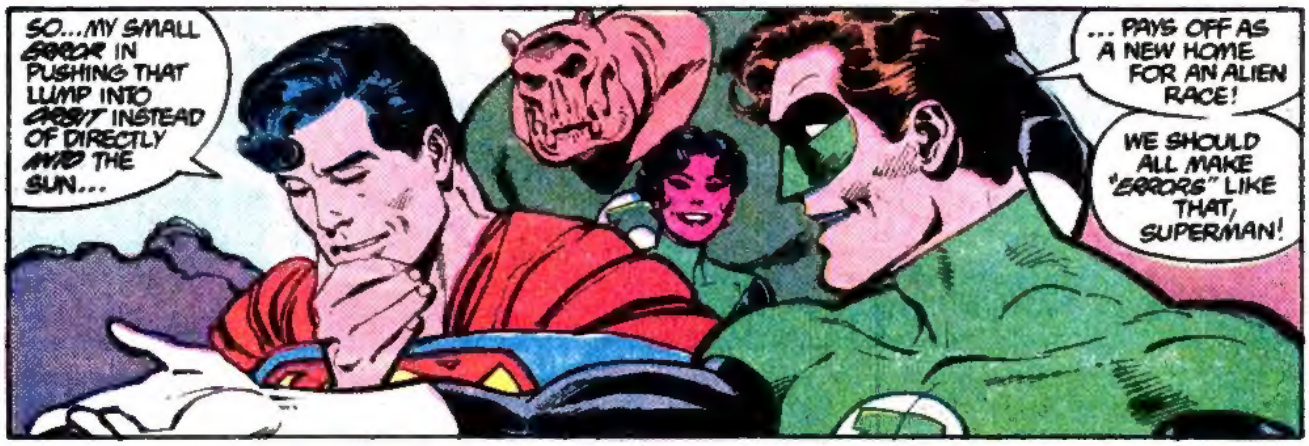

BUT...WHAT ARE WE HOPPING ABOUT?
YOU PUSHED THIS MENACE INTO ORBIT IN THE FIRST PLACE, RIGHT, SUPES?
JUST PUSH IT BACK!
I'M AFRAID IT'S NOT QUITE THAT SIMPLE, ARISIA WHEN I LIFTED THIS THING OFF EARTH IT WEIGHED ONLY A FEW THOUSAND TONS.
SWOLLEN WITH MUTANT LIFE AS IT IS NOW, IT'S FAR BEYOND MY POWER TO MOVE!
BUT. BUT WE'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING!"
WE WILL, HONEY.
THIS MAY BE TOO MUCH FOR SUPERMAN, BUT AS YOU YOURSELF POINTED OUT, FOUR GREEN LANTERNS SHOULD BE ABLE TO DEAL WITH IT!
COMBINE RING-BEAMS, LANTERNS!
FORMATION. PLANET STOPPER!!


IT'S SLOWING DOWN
BUT IT'S NOT STOPPING! THE FORCE OF OUR WILL ALONE IS UNFORTUNATE IT FAILING JUST SHORT OF SUCCESS!
IT'S PUSHING THE LANTERNS BACK!
STILL HEADED TOWARDS EARTH!
BUT...
WHAT WAS THAT SALAKK SAID? "THE FORCE OF OUR WILL..."
OF COURSE!
IT'S PURE WILL POWER THAT DRIVES AND SHAPES THE GREEN PLASMA
HOLD ON CORPS! LET'S ADD ONE MORE ZOOM TO THIS BATTLE
THAT'S THE TRICK SUPERMAN!
BEAM POWER INCREASED BY TWENTY ASSESSED
OKAY GREEN LANTERNS!
LET'S SHOW THIS DIRTBALL HOW WE DO THINGS DOWN DOWN


WE'RE DOING IT!
WITH SUPERMAN'S ADDED WILL POWER,
...WE'RE PUSHING THE THING BACK!!
BUT... WHAT GOOD IS THAT GOING TO DO?
IF WE LEAVE IT IN SOLAR ORBIT LIKE THIS...
IT WILL CONTINUE TO GROW AND MUTATE...
AND EVENTUALLY THREATEN EARTH AGAIN!!
THE SOLUTION IS PATENTLY OBVIOUS.
THIS OBJECT MUST BE REMOVED FROM THIS ORBIT
THE ABSOLUTE COLD OF INTERSTELLAR SPACE WILL FREEZE ALL THE MUTATED BACTERIA. THE OBJECT WILL BE STERILIZED!!
THEN LET'S DO IT, GREEN LANTERNS!
NEXT STOP, DEEP SPACE!!


LOOK!
IT'S ALREADY STARTING TO HAVE AN EFFECT!
CONFIRMED.
THE PARTICULATE MATTER IS CONDENSING OUT OF THE ATMOSPHERIC BIO-SPHERE.
THE DEGENERATED TISSUE IS FORMING A MATRIX OF HIGH-PROTEIN POLY-CARBONS IN THE CRUST!
WHAT...??
IS THAT GOOD?
OF COURSE.
WE HAVE DESTROYED THE MENACE, AT THE SAME TIME CREATING A FERTILE SURFACE ON THIS PLANETOID.
IN FACT...
TO USE AN EARTHLY EXPRESSION, I BELIEVE WE MAY HAVE "KILLED TWO BIRDS WITH ONE STONE."
ANALYSIS SHOWS THE COMPOSITION OF THIS SOIL IS ALMOST EXACTLY WHAT WE HAVE BEEN LOOKING FOR!
A LITTLE ADDITIONAL MANIPULATION OF THE BIO-MIX--SUCH AS I AM SURE KILOWOG COULD MANAGE EASILY--
--AND THIS ARTIFICIAL PLANETOID WILL MAKE A PERFECT HOME FOR OUR LITTLE FRIENDS THE THERILS!

LOOKS LIKE SALAKK WAS RIGHT!
THEY LOVE IT!!
'COURSE THEY DO, SUPERMAN. ALL THE BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL IN THIS SOIL IS PERFECT FER TH' THERILS.
AN' WITH TH' LITTLE BIT OF EXTRA MANIPULATIN' I DID T' GIVE THIS DIRTBALL A PERMANENT ATMOSPHERE...
THEY'LL BE AT HOME HERE FEREVER!!


SO...MY SMALL ERROR IN PUSHING THAT LUMP INTO ORBIT INSTEAD OF DIRECTLY INTO THE SUN...
... PAYS OFF AS A NEW HOME FOR AN ALIEN RACE!
WE SHOULD ALL MAKE "ERRORS" LIKE THAT, SUPERMAN!

AND NOW...
GUESS IT'S HIGH TIME WE HEADED BACK TO EARTH! I'LL BET THERE ARE LOTS OF OTHER THINGS FOR US TO TAKE CARE OF!
NO DOUBT YOU ARE RIGHT, JOHN STEWART.
I WOULD NOT BE SURPRISED TO FIND THE ILLS OF PLANET EARTH HAVE MULTIPLIED IN OUR ABSENCE.
Y'KNOW... THAT'S WHAT I LIKE ABOUT YOU, SALAKK.

WHAT IS THAT, CH'P?
YOU'RE SO DEPENDABLE!
YOU CAN ALWAYS BE DEPENDED ON TO TURN A BIRTHDAY PARTY INTO A WAKE!
HUMPH!!

NEXT IN:
ACTION
THE METAL MEN!!

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It started in SUPERMAN #3, it continued into ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN #426 and it climaxed right here in the pages of ACTION #586—it was the first three-way crossover in the newly revitalized Superman titles back in 1986, it was the Apokolips Saga and here's what you thought:

Dear Editor:

At the conclusion of ACTION #586, Lightray and Orion discuss how Superman has been restored to his former self. Lightray wonders how Superman will bear the "guilt" of his "responsibility" for the slaughter of the Hunger Dogs and Shock Troops. But Orion responds that "Mother Box restored his memory—but not of *that*. It is not fitting one such as Superman should bear such grief." This rather strange exchange of views somewhat spoiled the end of what had been an enjoyable and intriguing three-part story.

What "responsibility" does Superman bear for those deaths? He was the controlled pawn of Darkseid. He did not desire nor cause those deaths. That was Darkseid's doing. Superman's only "responsibility" (though I don't think it's fair to call it that) was that he was not strong enough to resist Darkseid's power. And thus, where is his "guilt"? Remorse, regret—yes. But "guilt"? To be guilty one must first be responsible—and Superman was not! "But, at least they saved Superman the grief of those horrible memories of death," I hear you say. Well, yes, this is true. But are they doing him a favor? By not recalling Darkseid's scheme, is he not less knowledgeable about such things and therefore less able to resist or counter them in the future? Might not this cause the deaths of even more people at some time, because he didn't have the memory of his experience as a guide? And, more deeply, is good too feeble to bear the knowledge of failure and of evil? I say no! Our memories are precious to us, both the good and the bad. We learn from failure even more than we learn from success. Thus the lessons of our failures can sustain us just as much—if not more than—the morale boosting emotions generated by our successes.

Orion erred. He acted untypically "soft" in wanting to spare Superman's feelings. He simply chose the wrong time to act this way. Maybe this just shows that Orion's heritage exerts a strong pull on him. He does not truly believe in the strength of good. Darkseid's twisted notions of the harsh superiority of evil seem to have affected Orion. But good can stand against the full knowledge of reality! It is evil that does not admit to other possibilities and is weak in the face of true humanity—as Darkseid's quest for destructions in the LEGENDS mini-series demonstrates.

T.M. Maple
Box 1272, Station B
Weston, Ontario
M9L 2R9, Canada

Gee, T, we're kinda sorry you let that small point ruin a story for you that you say you liked otherwise. But, hey, we can take the constructive criticism—and after 2650 letters of comment you'd better believe your criticism is always constructive!

All we can say in our defense, Mr. Maple, is that we'll watch out for that kind of stuff in the future and, well, frankly, some other readers didn't let that little story point get in their way of enjoying the three-issue Apokolips saga!

Submitted for your approval, a letter of example from one Mark Haden Frazer, of Oconomowoc, Wisconsin...

* * * * *

Dear Andy and John:

Well, I'll be honest with you, I didn't think you could do it. I honestly didn't think that you gentlemen could handle Darkseid and the New Gods as well as their creator did.

But you proved me wrong.

The conclusion to your three-part Apokolips Saga was handled quite well, and Darkseid himself never looked better.

John Byrne, and everyone involved, seemed to show a great deal of love and respect for Jack Kirby's Fourth World, and I thank you deeply for not tarnishing one of my favorite comic legends any further than other creators (who shall remain nameless) have.

Despite my initial cynicism, I'm really starting to enjoy the new SUPERMAN. Either I'm mellowing out in my old age, or you guys are putting on one helluva show. Keep up the good work!

Mark Haden Frazer
W39700 Sunnyfield Dr.
Oconomowoc, WI 53066

Oconomowoc. Hmmmm
Oconomowoc.
Oconomowoc.

We have nothing of interest to say about Oconomowoc, we just like to see the word "Oconomowoc" in italics.

But seriously, Mark, us editorial types pray for letters like yours. Mostly because the segues are built right in. You mention cynicism in your missive—well

* * * * *

Dear Super-Team:

I'm a cynic at heart, but I have to admit, I was really knocked out by the MAN OF STEEL mini-series. But even then, I still held my breath. Sure, a talented group of people like yourselves could produce a brilliant retelling of the Superman Legend. Sure, they could breathe new life into the characters, making them vivid and three-dimensional. And they could even depict it with all of this clean, graceful art. But, could they sustain the quality with three monthly titles?

So far, the answer is a resounding, "Yes!"

All three titles are class acts. Take ACTION #586, for example: New shading is added to the character of Darkseid when he sends Superman home for winning their fight fairly. Nice touch. Orion and Lightray were nicely handled, as well.

But what of Superman himself? He is truly a character of mythic proportions here. Battling Darkseid, dodging Omega Beams, enduring painful energy blasts—Superman is fueled not only by regaining his powers, but also by his justifiable anger at being used and hurt. Good writing there, folks!

Clearly, the muscle-bound, one-dimensional Superman of recent years is gone! Once again, to quote Orion, "Superman is something more. Something special. He is a champion." For that, this long-time Superman fan thanks you all very sincerely.

Michael A. Medlock
259 W. Verdugo Avenue
Apt. G
Burbank, CA 91502-2326

Oconomowoc.

* * * * *

Dear DC:

If you saw my recent letter to ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN, you know I was not pleased with that issue's installment of your LEGENDS crossover. I was appalled at Superman's actions. Even with his memory gone Superman should never slaughter Para-Demons, love Amazing Grace, or lead innocents into a trap. The implied love scene with Grace was especially disturbing. I know most people don't have the old-fashioned values I do, and I expect most

heroes to be modern and keep up with the times, but Superman should be pure. He is the total good guy, and a definite role model. I said to myself, "ACTION #586 had better be good to make up for this."

It was.

This issue's cover was excellent! It was exploding with power! And the story made up for anything I disliked about previous installments and answered all my questions satisfactorily. Well, almost. I'd still like to know why Superman's cape wasn't destroyed in the fire-pits and where the Phantom Stranger went after SUPERMAN #3. Also, even though I know that Darkseid is aware of Superman's secret identity, I'd like to know why he kept it a secret from the Phantom Stranger. What made him think that the Stranger wouldn't already know Superman's secret? And finally, why was that whatchamacallit that transported Supes back home called both the "Boom Tube" and the "Star Gate"? (My answer: The "Star Gate" is the Gateway at the end of the tunnel and the "Boom Tube" is what one travels through to get to the Gate.)

I was pleased with your explanation as to why Superman's power-level went down after he lost his memory. My first guess was that it was because Apokolips has no sun and Superman was running low on Solar energy. But the solution you offered worked as well.

The revelation of Amazing Grace being Glorious Godfrey's sister was a surprise to me. I guess I can accept that as a valid reason for Superman falling in love with her, though it was then hard to believe that Lightray resisted temptation when Superman couldn't. Though I wished to see more of other New Gods like Metron and the Highfather, and that's without mentioning Kalibak and Mantis who are still rotting somewhere on Apokolips, not being used. Still, I got to see Superman mix it up with both Orion and Darkseid, two battles I've been wanting to see for quite a while. Though brief, I was thrilled to see Orion finally stand against Superman, and Darkseid himself did okay, but I don't think the Lord of Evil should've been beaten quite so easily. His Omega Force has been portrayed as the most powerful force in existence and should have been more than a "walk in the park" even if it wasn't at full power.

Finally, others may see Orion's wiping out Superman's memory of his "evil" actions as a cop-out and say that Superman should face the consequences as a man, but I agree that Superman was not at fault and deserved to be spared the suffering. If he's as good and pure as I want him to be, the knowledge of what he did would've been shattering!

I hope to see Darkseid in the Superman books again soon. So long!

Danny DeAngelo
7 Carmody Court
Apt. 806
So. Boston, MA 02127

See, T.M., Danny appreciated Orion's compassion for his fellow hero, and in the words of Misters Bartles and James we appreciate his support.

Now to answer a couple of Danny's questions totally arbitrarily:

Your solution to the "Boom Tube"/"Star Gate" conundrum needn't have been so complicated—simply put, the "Boom Tube" is a "Star Gate" between Earth and Apokolips and presumably almost anywhere else you can imagine.

The reason Lightray was able to resist Amazing Grace's wiles while Superman was not was equally as simple—Superman was already weakened with amnesia and Lightray was not.

That about wraps up this letter column, so until next month ... OCONOMOWOC, EVERYBODY!

THIS JUST IN: DC's crack team of researchers has just succeeded in cracking the mysterious secret contained within the puzzling term "Oconomowoc"! It appears that Oconomowoc is an ancient North American Indian term meaning:

NEXT ISSUE: features the dramatic return of the magnetic personalities of the seldom seen Metal Men! That's right in ACTION #590, John Byrne, Dick Giordano, John Costanza and regular colorist Tom Ziuko bring back the ever popular robot team that started the whole robot craze that's taken hold during the latter part of this Twentieth Century! Not only that, but they're also re-building one of the Metal Men's most dangerous nemesis, one that was recently destroyed during the CRISIS ON INFINITE EARTHS! But where does Superman fit into all of this? Guess this sneak peek at next month's cover will have to be your only clue'til then! We're sorry you're going to have to wait a full thirty days to find out the entire scoop—but, hey, we have to wait, too!

Hard to believe Oconomowoc means all that, isn't it? Yeah, well, we don't believe it either—looks to us like our "cracked" research team is pulling a little April Fool's gag on us a tad early! Well, we'll see who has the last laugh come payday!

—Mike Carlin

IN MEMORIUM

Gardner Fox was the first comicbook writer whose name I knew. Back in those more innocent days, when I first began reading comics, there were no credits more elaborate than the occassional signature hidden in some corner of a splash page. And those were always the *artist's* names. Almost never did we see a writer getting credit for his work.

When I noticed Gardner Fox's name it wasn't long before I noticed, too, that his stories were often -- usually in fact -- my favorites. The characters he created -- Hawkman, in both his incarnations, or the Golden Age Green Lantern -- were always the ones I loved best.

Now Gardner Fox is gone. He died just a week ago, as I type this. He had not done much comic work in recent years, but the body of work he left, the wonders he created, stand as a legacy to be cherished and, for those of us fortunate enough to follow in his footsteps, a legacy to be admired and even envied.